

C4474

Cover

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1954

I. D. LEITCH,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30115590>

*pg. ask
3/10/55*

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1954

I. D. LEITCH,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CONTENTS

Preface	1
PART I.	
Chairmen of Committees	5
Staff of Public Health Department	5
Statistics and Social Conditions	8
Vital Statistics	11
Meteorology	26
Cancer	27
PART II.	
Notifiable Diseases	31
Laboratory Examinations	36
PART III.	
National Health Service Act, 1946 :—	
Sect. 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children	39
,, 23—Midwives' Service	51
,, 24—Health Visiting	54
,, 25—Home Nursing Service	56
,, 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.....	57
,, 27—Ambulance Service	62
,, 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care— Tuberculosis	63
Venereal Diseases	74
,, 29—Domestic Help Service	76
,, 51—Mental Health Services	77
PART IV.	
Blind Persons	85
Home Accidents	87
National Assistance Acts, 1948-1951	89
Special Medical Examinations	89
PART V.	
Sanitary Circumstances	91
Housing	101
Inspection and Supervision of Food	103
Inspection of Shops	114

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Health Services Committees.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough and on the work of the Department for the year 1954.

The number of births registered was 46 more than in 1953 and the (crude) birth rate showed a corresponding increase to 19.0 as compared with the figure of 15.2 for the country as a whole. 3.8% of the births were illegitimate. Of every 1,000 babies born to South Shields mothers, 19 were born dead, whilst of every 1,000 babies born alive, approximately 17 failed to survive the first month of life and roughly 32 all told died during the first twelve months. These figures for infant deaths represent a considerable improvement over previous years as there has been a fairly steady downward trend over the past decade. Towards the reduction of infant deaths due to infection which still represents a sizeable proportion of the total, the efforts of the Department are specially directed; in this field a good deal is achieved by the promotion of a high standard of infant care based on advice and guidance given to the mothers by midwives and health visitors.

The overall death rate for the town was 11.3 which is virtually unchanged from last year's figure and which is the same as the rate for the country as a whole. It is noticed that diseases of the heart accounted for an increased proportion of the total deaths, and that cancer and bronchitis deaths were relatively decreased. Deaths caused by accident and violence increased both absolutely and relatively.

The meteorological tables shown on page 26 underline the unpleasantness of 1954 weather, especially during the holiday seasons. The total rainfall was 29.4 inches and August was the wettest month with 4.78 inches. An appreciable amount of rain fell on 200 days in the year.

With the final termination of food rationing in June, the responsibility for the distribution of Welfare Foods was transferred to local health authorities. Additional staff was engaged to carry out this new responsibility of the Health Department and the transfer was effected smoothly. With the exception of the former Ministry

of Food office at Wyvestow Lodge, the same issuing sessions have continued whilst the Milk Room at the Municipal Clinic has now become the central store. Experience however has shown that this storeroom is inadequate and additional accommodation is necessary.

The effect of the ending of meat rationing raised many problems at the Public Abattoir. Before and after the actual date of decontrol in June, however, meetings were arranged between representatives of the Council and of the meat trade and in this way anticipated difficulties were fully discussed; whilst there was a good deal of uncertainty at first, the understanding reached at the meetings helped to facilitate the resumption of full control of the Abattoir by the Council. As the South Shields establishment is at present one of the few municipally controlled abattoirs in the North of reasonable size, a wide area had become dependent on it for the production of meat supplies and after decontrol, the main problem was the enormous increase in the numbers of animals dealt with. Apart from the congestion caused by the increase in traffic, there was difficulty in keeping the place properly cleansed, owing to the very limited periods when the slaughtering processes were not proceeding. At times the facilities were overloaded and the general wear and tear was considerable. To cope with the demand it was necessary also to increase the staff of meat inspectors and the usual high standard of meat inspection was maintained throughout. If such periods of high peak slaughtering are to be a permanent feature, it will be necessary to review from all aspects the adequacy of the facilities in relation to the demand and it is hoped that some guidance will be obtained from the Government when the final report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses is issued.

At the beginning of the year, the home help service was reviewed by the Committee both with regard to its adequacy and to the scales of charges. As a result of the decisions made, a Supervisor was appointed, the staff doubled and the scales of charges modified. The expanded service was soon operating at full capacity; as in other areas it has become preponderantly a service for the elderly and chronic sick. In all, 400 cases were dealt with and 42,896 hours of service given in 1954, the corresponding figures for 1953 being 217 and 17,918 respectively. At the end of the year there were signs that the demand had again outstripped the supply and a further review as to the adequacy will probably be required. Nevertheless, in so far as the home help service is used by the aged it would seem wise to incur the smaller expenditure in attempting to care for old people in their own homes than to incur the high cost of their maintenance in welfare homes. This issue will of course become more pressing in future years as the numbers of pensioners increase.

I would draw your attention to the remarks and tables on pages 69/73 with regard to the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis. An analysis of the figures over the past thirty years has brought out the fact that young women in South Shields between 15 and 20 years of age are contracting tuberculosis to a much greater extent today than they did in the thirties. Whilst these young women have always had a higher T.B. rate, probably the highest of any age in both sexes, the steadily increasing trend over the past twenty years to the present high rate of almost 5 per 1,000 is disturbing to say the least. It is perhaps opportune therefore that during the early months of the year the B.C.G. scheme for all 13 year old school children was successfully introduced, the work being carried out by the School Health Service staff. 972 out of a possible total of 1,368 accepted the facilities and after skin testing 328 boys and 319 girls were given B.C.G. vaccine. In addition to B.C.G. other efforts to safeguard the health of the young worker especially females are essential and in this connection it would be justifiable to introduce a yearly Mass X-ray of all these young people on a compulsory basis. Other measures should include more adequate medical supervision on the lines of the school health service.

As the co-ordination with hospital and general medical services improves, the care and after care services of the authority have shown a gradual development and a greater use made of them by the public. This was exemplified by the considerable increase during the year in the loan of sick room requisites and by the number of requests for recuperative holiday facilities. Moreover, the increasing demands in these and in other directions reflect the problem of inadequate hospital accommodation for chronic and aged sick patients. Whilst everything possible is done by the department to help these patients in their own homes, cases are frequently referred for whom hospital admission is the only solution; for such patients, the shortage of beds is so acute that an agreed system of admission based on priority need would seem to be necessary but it would be unrealistic to assess the need on clinical considerations only.

It has been considered advisable to re-arrange the various sections of the report as follows :— in Part I will be found Statistical and General Data, whilst infectious Diseases are covered by Part II; Part III is devoted to all the Local Health Authority services and Part IV includes certain miscellaneous items; Part V deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the committees for their support and assistance throughout the year. I am also indebted to the officials of the other Corporation departments and to the officers of other authorities in South Shields and elsewhere for their valuable co-operation. To all the members of the Health Department staff I extend my gratitude and appreciation for their high standard of work and for their loyalty; for their help in the compilation of this report I must thank Mr. C. Hymers, Chief Clerk, and Mr. H. B. Parry, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I. D. LEITCH,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Public Health Department,
Stanhope Parade,
South Shields.*

PART I.—STATISTICAL & GENERAL DATA.

Chairmen of Committees at 31st December, 1954

<i>Public Health Committee</i>	.... Alderman MARGARET E. SUTTON, J.P.
<i>Health Services Committee</i>	.... Alderman MARGARET E. SUTTON, J.P.
<i>Mental Health Services Sub-Committee</i>	.... Alderman W. P. MCANANY, J.P.
<i>Slaughterhouse Sub-Committee</i>	Alderman A. L. NEWMAN, J.P.
<i>Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee</i>	.... Alderman MARGARET E. SUTTON, J.P.
<i>Education Committee</i>	.... Alderman J. GARNETT, J.P.
<i>Education Welfare Sub- Committee</i>	.... Alderman M. J. PEEL.
<i>Housing Committee</i>	.... Alderman T. W. PEEL.
<i>Town Improvement Committee</i>	Alderman J. F. RICHARDSON.
<i>Welfare Committee</i>	.... Councillor J. E. WRIGHT.
<i>Children Committee</i>	.... Councillor L. GLOVER, J.P.

Staff of Public Health Department

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Principal School Medical Officer	I. D. LEITCH	M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer	VACANT	
Chest Physician	O. W. MARIENFELD*	M.D., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.F.P.S., D.P.H.
School Medical Officers	H. LEVY EVELYN H. BOLT	M.B., B.S. M.B., B.S.
Assistant Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Service	ANNIE K. WATTIE	M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualification
Assistant Medical Officers, Maternity and Child Welfare	PAULINE O'BRIEN (left 30/4/54). JEAN WALMSLEY AUDREY JENNINGS (commenced 1/5/54)	M.B., B.S. M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. M.B., B.S.
Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon (School Health Service)	P. MACMURRAY*	M.B., D.L.O.
Principal School Dental Officer	J. G. WALTON	B.D.S.
School Dental Surgeons	J. C. HARRISON* (Left 28/11/54). A. C. K BARNES (Commenced 5/4/54)	
Dental Surgeon (Mat. & Child Welfare, etc.)	P. CHRISTENSEN*	B.D.S., L.D.S.
Borough Analyst	C. J. H. STOCK*	B.SC., F.R.I.C.
Chief Food Inspector and Chief Sanitary Inspector	H. B. PARRY	Cert R.S.I. and Meat and Smoke Inspector's Certificates. Cert. in Sanitary Science.
District Sanitary and Housing Inspectors	J. MCVAY J. WANN H. BROOKS S. PRATT E. OLIVER A. E. BENNETT G. A. NEWMAN	Cert. R.S.I. and Meat Inspector's Cert. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do.
Inspector under the Shops Acts	J. R. KELSO	
Superintendent Health Visitor	MISS E. MYCOCK	S.R.N., S.C.M., and H.V. Certificate.
Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives	MRS. S. A. INNES	S.R.N., S.C.M.
Matron, Midwifery Part II Training School	MISS E. M. MARLOW	S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D.
Matron, Day Nurseries	MRS. E. P. WHITE	S.R.N.

**Part-time, also in Consultant or Private Practice.*

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Health Visitors	MISS R. BARRELL (Retired 24/3/54).	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	MISS C. W. EVERSON	do. and H.v. Cert.
	MISS M. SHERRY	do. do.
	MRS. P. STEWART	do. do.
	MRS. B. HEAVISIDES	do. do.
	MISS S. E. G. WHITFIELD	do. do.
	MISS M. V. INGOE	do. do.
	MISS E. N. JOPLING	do. do.
	MRS. E. HAGGERSTON	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	MISS M. McMANEMY	S.R.N., S.C.M., and H.v. Cert.
	MRS. M. B. CALLAN	do. do.
	MISS J. ARNOLD	do. do.
	MISS J. J. McDONALD	do. do.
	MISS M. BEATY (Left 15/6/54)	do. do.
	MRS. I. CALLENDER	do. do.
	MISS C. FORD (Student) (Commenced 1/6/54).	S.R.N., S.C.M.
School Nurses	MRS. D. McPHEE	S.R.N.
	MRS. E. HAYDEN	S.R.N.
	MRS. J. JOHNSON	S.R.N., S.C.M.
	MRS. M. M. BAIN (Commenced 5/4/54).	S.R.N.
	C. HYMERS	Cert, R.S.I. and Meat Inspector's Cert.
Chief Admin. Clerk		Cert. R.S.I.
Senior Admin. Clerk	J. HILTON	
Asst. Admin. Clerk	W. JOHNSON	
Clerks	A. T. LAWSON	
	R. ALDUS	
	J. BOLUS	
	J. R. GILES (Left 21/11/54).	
	L. SNAPE (Commenced 6/12/54	
	D. PURVIS (Commenced 4/1/54- Left 27/11/54).	
	MISS E. PARK	
	MISS J. TINMOUTH	
	MRS. M. BADGER	
	MISS O. SNAITH	
	MISS N. HARDWICK	
	MISS B. G. TINDLE	
	MISS T. CLARK	
	MISS F. H. McKAY	
	MISS. L. R. HARWOOD (Left 10/7/54)	
	MISS M. GASCOIGNE (Commenced 24/5/54)	
	MISS M. WESTHALL (Commenced 12/7/54)	

Post or Appointment	Name	Qualifications
Mental Health Service: Duly Authorised Officers	C. MIDDLETON R. M. HUDSON W. SCOTT	
Dental Assistant, School Health Service	MISS O. DEAKIN	
Skin Clinic Attendant	MRS. C. A. GLATTBACH	
Ambulance Supt.	W. S. BOHILL	
do. Drivers (22)		
Domiciliary Midwives (21)		
Supervisor of Domestic Helps	MISS. M. V. SNEDDON	
Domestic Helps: (6 Full-time, 42 Part- time)		
Rodent Operator (1)		

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH

1. General Statistics

Area of Borough (including inland water but excluding foreshore and tidal water—301 acres)	....	....	acres. 4,877
Population at Census, 1951	....	....	106,598
Resident population, Registrar-General's estimate for year 1953 (mid-year)	....	....	107,500
Density (persons per acre)	....	....	22.0
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954 (according to Rate Books)	....	....	34,967
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1954	....	....	£637,599
Produce of a penny rate (estimate for 1954-55)	....		£2,543

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Total Male Female					1954	1953		
Live Births :—								
Legitimate	1,963	1,021	942	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.0	18.6	
Illegitimate	....	78	41	37			
Birth Rate adjusted by Comparability Factor of 0.93					=	17.7	18.2	
Still Births :—								
Legitimate	39	19	20	} Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still-births)	19.3	19.2	
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—			
Deaths....	1,210	653	557	} Deathrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.3	11.4	
Death Rate adjusted by Comparability Factor						12.2	12.3	
Death Rate from puerperal causes, per 1000 total births:								
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	
Other puerperal causes				0.48	2.01	
Death Rate of infants under one year of age:								
All infants per 1,000 live births					31.8	29.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					32.1	29.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					25.6	34.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					207	226
„	„	Measles (all ages)			1	1
„	„	Whooping Cough (all ages)			—	1
„	„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			2	2
Area comparability factors :—								
Births					0.93	0.98
Deaths					1.11	1.08

3. Social and Economic Conditions

The principal industries are shipbuilding, ship-repairing, coal-mining and export. Under the Government's Development Schemes, new factories have been established for the manufacture of dolls, electrical and engineering fittings, gowns, lingerie, slippers, chemicals and pickles. These industries, in contrast to the older established heavy industries, provide employment for many women.

UNEMPLOYMENT :—

I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange, for the latest information available relating to unemployment which is summarised below.

The average numbers on the live registers taken from the monthly returns, were as follows :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Men (age 18-64)	2,060	1,532	1,367	1,356	1,314
Boys (age 14-17)	81	65	54	41	48
Women (age 18-64)	420	352	580	495	492
Girls (age 14-17)	27	26	47	38	29
Total	2,588	1,975	2,048	1,930	1,883

Of the different groups the percentage of unemployed was as follows :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Men (age 18-64)	9	7	7	6	6
Boys (age 14-17)	5	4	4	3	4
Women (age 18-64)	5	4	7	5	5
Girls (age 14-17)	2	1	3	1	1
Total	7	6	6	6	5

The maximum and minimum numbers of persons unemployed during the year were :—

MAXIMUM	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Men (age 18-64)	2,354	2,493	1,643	1,761	1,820
Boys (age 14-17)	128	116	103	64	96
Women (age 18-64)	504	463	705	693	587
Girls (age 14-17)	69	51	78	62	62
MINIMUM					
Men (age 18-64)	1,671	1,071	1,228	1,090	794
Boys (age 14-17)	32	34	28	26	28
Women (age 18-64)	342	253	463	389	339
Girls (age 14-17)	9	8	21	21	9

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population of the County Borough for 1954 is 107,500, an increase on the previous year of 200. The natural increase—excess of births over deaths—was 831. The population at the 1951 Census was 106,598.

Births

2,041 babies were registered as belonging to South Shields during 1954, a birth rate of 19.0 per 1,000 of the population, the birth rate for 1953 was 18.6 per 1,000.

The proportion of male to female births was 1,062 males to 979 females. There were 78 illegitimate births or 3.8 per cent of the total births.

There were 39 still births, 19 males and 20 females: 19.3 per 1,000 of all births, live and still.

The birth rate in South Shields as compared with the country generally and neighbouring authorities was as follows :—

				<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
England and Wales	....	....	....	15.2	24.0
<i>South Shields C.B.</i>	....	....	....	19.0	19.3
Gateshead C. B.	....	....	....	17.1	26.9
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	....	....	....	17.0	25.5
Tynemouth C. B.	....	....	....	18.1	29.7
Durham County	....	....	....	17.3	25.2
Northumberland County	....	....	....	16.3	23.8

Deaths

There were 1,210 deaths during the year among South Shields residents : males 653, females 557. This is equal to a death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a death rate of 11.4 for 1953. The figure includes 32 deaths of residents who died away from South Shields, but the deaths of 173 non-residents who died in South Shields mostly in hospitals, are excluded,

The death rate for South Shields as compared with the country generally and neighbouring authorities was as follows :—

England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	11.3
<i>South Shields C. B.</i>	....	....	....	....	....	11.3
Gateshead C. B.	....	....	....	....	....	11.8
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	....	....	....	....	....	11.3
Tynemouth C.B.....	....	....	....	....	....	11.8
Durham County	....	....	....	....	....	11.5
Northumberland County	....	....	....	....	....	12.2

The death rate for South Shields in the four quarters of the year was as follows :—

1st quarter	....	....	....	....	....	13.7
2nd quarter	....	....	....	....	....	9.5
3rd quarter	....	....	....	....	....	10.3
4th quarter	....	....	....	....	....	11.6

Infant Mortality

There were 65 deaths of infants under one year of age, this represents an infant mortality rate of 31.8 per 1,000 births as compared with 29.6 in 1953 and 25.5 for the country generally.

Maternal Mortality

One woman died as a result of pregnancy and parturition. The maternal death rate was 0.48 per 1,000 total births. The rate for 1953 was 2.01 per 1,000.

Zymotic Deaths

There were no deaths from Diphtheria or Whooping Cough. Measles caused one death and enteritis in children under two years, two deaths. The Zymotic death rate was 0.03 per 1,000 of the population.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

		<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>Percentage of total</i>
(a)	Arteriosclerotic and Heart diseases....	347	28.7
(b)	Cancer	207	17.1
(c)	Cerebral haemorrhage, Apoplexy, etc.	169	14.0
(d)	Bronchitis	70	5.8
(e)	Pneumonia	57	4.7
(f)	Violence and accidents	53	4.4
(g)	Prematurity and diseases of early infancy	41	3.4
(h)	Tuberculosis	38	3.1
(i)	Nephritis	17	1.4
(j)	Influenza	11	0.9

Average Age at Death in (years)

Year	Males	Females	Overall
1918	32.90	32.61	32.76
1919	34.69	33.66	34.20
1920	32.82	34.84	33.78
1921	37.31	36.89	37.12
1922	36.41	39.01	37.61
1923	35.94	36.25	36.09
1924	35.84	40.65	38.12
1925	35.77	37.36	36.49
1926	39.79	41.15	40.42
1927	40.23	41.05	40.62
1928	41.82	41.12	41.49
1929	39.49	41.38	40.41
1930	42.96	45.94	44.32
1931	39.29	43.19	41.11
1932	46.98	49.06	47.98
1933	43.30	47.71	45.38
1934	45.30	48.00	46.60
1935	48.13	50.06	49.04
1936	48.38	53.41	50.67
1937	48.64	51.20	49.87
1938	50.15	51.88	51.01
1939	52.24	53.33	52.73
1940	51.92	54.23	53.01
1941	50.34	52.05	51.80
1942	51.81	54.37	53.05
1943	52.94	52.81	52.88
1944	55.14	56.52	55.79
1945	55.54	57.40	56.40
1946	53.55	58.78	55.87
1947	56.67	58.30	57.41
1948	58.99	60.39	59.65
1949	58.27	60.98	59.58
1950	60.53	64.40	62.31
1951	61.51	64.53	62.88
1952	60.44	63.58	61.86
1953	61.59	64.94	63.41
1954	60.97	65.53	63.07

Many factors contribute to this improvement—notably the reduction of infant mortality, the decrease in infectious diseases generally, the advancement of medical science and better housing conditions resulting in improved hygiene in the homes. It will be observed that females live longer than males (and one factor may be that many of the best lives among males were either lost at sea or in the fighting services whilst comparatively young.)

Coroner's inquests were held in respect of 85 deaths. In 20 cases the Coroner ordered a post-mortem examination, but it was found unnecessary to hold inquests. There were 38 deaths which were not certified by a medical practitioner and on whom no inquest or Coroner's post mortem examination was held.

495 deaths or 40.9 per cent. of the total occurred in institutions, exclusive of 173 deaths among non-residents of the Borough. These are detailed in Table 3, page 24.

Cremation

46 South Shields residents were cremated at the Newcastle Crematorium and 190 at the Sunderland Crematorium as compared with a total of only 5 in 1936.

Causes of Death

The tabulation of deaths given in Table 1, page 16, follows the Abbreviated List in accordance with the Nomenclature Regulations, 1948, of the World Health Organisation. This is the sixth revision of the International List and came into force on the 1st January, 1950.

It provides for an international Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and rules for the selection of the *underlying* cause of death, which may be defined as

- (a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or
- (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

The chief purpose of this codification is to secure such uniformity in morbidity and mortality statistics, internationally, as can be achieved for comparisons.

At the request of the Ministry of Health the short list of the causes of death as supplied by the Registrar-General is included in the report (Table 1 (A), page 19) in order that the relation between the local tabulation (Table 1) and the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General may be compared. There is substantial agreement, but as the Registrar-General points out, the classification of some deaths in respect of which the certifying medical practitioners have given definite causes is modified in the light of further information obtained by him from them by special enquiries; also this Table is of deaths actually registered during the year, while Table 1 is of deaths taking place; these possible sources of discrepancy should be borne in mind.

TABLE 1.—CAUSES OF DEATHS during 1954 of persons belonging to the County Borough of South Shields, classified according to the Abbreviated International List of Causes (Sixth Revision) as adopted for use in England and Wales. (This list has been abridged by omitting headings against which no deaths have been recorded during the year).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	AGES AT DEATH.																						
		0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	
B 1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M. 19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	2	2	2
B 2. Tuberculosis, other forms	F. 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	..	3	3	..	..	..
B 3. Syphilis and its sequelae...	M. 2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 10 Meningococcal infections	F. 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	..
B 14. Measles	M. 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
B 17. All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	M. 1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues	F. 2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
B 19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M. 113	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	2	3	7	14	17	16	23	13	12	5	2
B 20. Diabetes mellitus	F. 94	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	9	10	12	13	13	9	4
B 21. Anaemias.	M. 2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
B 22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.	F. 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	..
B 23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis.	M. 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
B 24. Rheumatic Fever	F. 6	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
	93	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	3	9	5	14	9	28	14	7
	76	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	4	7	9	17	14	14	5
	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..

[illegible]

[illegible]

TABLE 1 (A)—CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTH SHIELDS DURING THE YEAR 1954. (SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL).

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
				0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES	.. ..	M. F.	653 561	44 24	5 7	3 2	12 6	40 37	187 110	159 157	203 218
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	.. ..	M. F.	20 15	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2 1	4 9	10 2	4 3	....
2. 'Tuberculosis, other	.. ..	M. F.	1 3	.. 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 1	....	....	....
3. Syphilitic disease	.. ..	M. F.	2 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 2	....
4. Diphtheria	.. ..	M. F.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
5. Whooping Cough	.. ..	M. F.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
6. Meningococcal infections	.. ..	M. F.	.. 1	.. 1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	.. ..	M. F.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
8. Measles	.. ..	M. F.	.. 1	.. ..	.. 1	....	....	....	....	....	....
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	.. ..	M. F.	.. 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. 1	....	....	....	....
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.. ..	M. F.	22 25	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 1	1 10	9 8	3 6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. ..	M. F.	40 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2 ..	28 1	7 ..	3 1

TABLE 1 (A)—CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	F.	14	..	..	..	..	2	6	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F.	15	..	..	..	..	1	3	5	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M.	53	..	..	..	1	..	17	22	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	F.	34	..	..	..	..	3	14	8	9
16. Diabetes	M.	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	F.	3	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
18. Coronary disease, angina	M.	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	F.	94	1	..	..	..	1	18	23	51
20. Other heart disease	M.	74	..	..	..	..	..	16	26	32
21. Influenza	F.	99	..	..	..	..	4	33	36	26
22. Pneumonia	M.	62	..	..	..	..	1	9	32	20
23. Bronchitis	F.	14	..	..	..	..	..	4	6	4
24. Other circulatory diseases	M.	24	..	..	..	..	..	4	10	10
25. Other heart disease	F.	59	..	..	..	..	3	13	7	36
26. Influenza	M.	85	..	..	..	..	6	11	15	53
27. Pneumonia	F.	36	..	..	..	..	1	7	8	20
28. Bronchitis	M.	38	..	..	..	..	1	4	8	25
29. Other circulatory diseases	F.	6	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2
30. Influenza	M.	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
31. Pneumonia	F.	26	12	1	..	1	..	5	3	4
32. Bronchitis	M.	28	5	1	..	1	2	2	6	11
33. Other circulatory diseases	F.	38	..	..	..	..	..	9	11	16
34. Influenza	M.	30	1	..	..	..	1	7	9	12

TABLE 1 (A)—CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	AGE GROUPS							
			0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	M.	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	F.	5	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	M.	14	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	F.	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	M.	4	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	F.	6	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	1
31. Congenital malformations ..	M.	11	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	F.	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	M.	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
34. All other accidents ..	F.	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45. Suicide ..	F.	5	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	M.	7	23	1	2	..	..	5	8	8
	F.	48	13	1	1	..	1	7	11	14
	M.	52	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
	F.	5	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	..
	M.	2	2	1	1	3	9	5	2	3
	F.	26	11	..	..	..	..	1	1	9
	M.	11	8	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
	F.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..

4
TABLE 2—Deaths during 1957: Seasonal and Ward Distribution.

CAUSES OF DEATH			WARDS																			
	ALL CAUSES	{ Certified Un-certified	TOTAL	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	WARDS														
								Beacon	Bents	Brinkburn	Cleadon Park	Deans	Hadrian	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park
B. 1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	1172	343	246	274	309	90	79	57	56	68	106	79	45	98	101	90	95	83	54	71
B. 2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	38	20	9	5	4	4	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	4	—	2	—
B. 3.	Syphilis and its sequelae	...	35	16	3	7	9	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	5	4	4	4	1	1	1
B. 10.	Meningococcal infections	...	6	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. 14.	Measles	...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. 17.	All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	...	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B. 18.	Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues	...	207	41	49	58	59	20	12	12	12	11	21	15	4	14	20	18	12	16	4	16
B. 19.	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	6	3	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
B. 20.	Diabetes mellitus	...	7	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
B. 21.	Anaemias	...	7	4	—	2	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
B. 22.	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system...	...	169	48	41	43	37	14	13	10	5	11	19	18	5	12	11	11	10	12	8	10
B. 23.	Non-meningococcal meningitis	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. 24.	Rheumatic fever	...	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
B. 25.	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	15	9	4	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
B. 26.	Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	...	259	83	68	51	57	19	18	15	14	11	19	19	15	26	17	17	20	18	16	15
B. 27.	Other diseases of heart	...	27	8	6	6	7	—	1	—	1	5	7	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	2	2
B. 28.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	46	10	11	14	11	6	3	3	2	—	2	3	3	5	2	3	4	1	1	3
B. 29.	Hypertension without mention of heart	...	16	7	3	1	5	1	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2
B. 30.	Influenza	...	11	3	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3

TABLE 2.—Deaths during 1954: Seasonal and Ward Distribution.—Continued.

CAUSE OF DEATH	WARDS												4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	TOTAL
	Beacon	Bents	Brinkburn	Cleaddon Park	Deans	Hadrian	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock						Victoria	Westoe	West Park
B. 31. Pneumonia	6	3	—	2	4	3	5	3	4	8	6	1	7	2	3		
B. 32. Bronchitis	5	7	5	4	3	6	1	1	7	4	5	7	10	2	3		
B. 33. Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	2	—		
B. 34. Appendicitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	1		
B. 35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
B. 36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis except diarrhoea of the newborn	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	—		
B. 37. Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—		
B. 38. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	1	1	3	3	1	—	—		
B. 39. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—		
B. 40. Complication of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
B. 41. Congenital malformations	1	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—		
B. 42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	—		
B. 44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy and immaturity unqualified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	—		
B. 45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes	1	4	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	4	4	3	1	2	2		
B. 46. All other diseases	8	10	6	7	1	1	2	1	5	2	4	1	5	9	3		
BE. 47. Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—	—	2	—	4	4	3	1	11	4	14	—	—	—		
BE. 48. All other accidents	10	1	—	2	1	—	2	2	1	3	3	4	1	1	—		
BE. 49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury	5	—	—	1	2	6	2	2	1	3	7	—	—	—	—		
BE. 50. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Total	94	82	61	57	68	107	81	49	101	104	96	99	83	56	72		

TABLE 3.—Deaths during 1954 in Institutions and Transferable Deaths.

INSTITUTIONS	Deaths in Institutions in the Borough		Deaths of South Shields Residents in Institutions outside of the Borough		Transferable Deaths	
	Residents	Non-Residents	Residents	Non-Residents	Residents	Non-Residents
General Hospital	321	131	—	—	—	131
Ingham Infirmary	126	39	—	—	—	39
Deans Hospital	16	3	—	—	—	3
General Hospital, Newcastle	—	—	5	5	5	—
R.V.I., Newcastle	—	—	5	5	5	—
Shotley Bridge Hospital	—	—	4	4	4	—
General Hospital, Sunderland	—	—	3	3	3	—
Walkergate Hospital..	—	—	3	3	3	—
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	—	—	2	2	2	—
Other Hospitals	—	—	10	10	10	9
All Private Addresses	—	—	—	—	7	—
At Other Places	—	—	—	—	7	2
TOTAL	463	173	32	—	46	184

**TABLE 4—POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR
1935-54**

Year	Popula- tion esti- mated to middle of each year	Births			Total deaths registered in the Borough		Transfer- able Deaths		Net deaths belonging to the Borough			
		Uncor- rected Num- ber	Net				Of Non-Resident registered in the Borough	Of Residents not registered in the Borough	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Num- ber	Rate	Num- ber	Rate			Num- ber	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Num- ber	Rate
1935	112,000	1,969	1,930	17.2	1,545	13.8	196	60	154	80	1,409	12.6
1936	*111,350	1,924	1,878	16.9	1,607	14.4	189	49	163	87	1,467	13.2
1937	111,000	1,903	1,831	16.5	1,664	15.0	217	38	147	80	1,485	13.4
1938	110,400	2,007	1,897	17.2	1,645	14.9	172	47	124	65	1,520	13.8
1939	†106,900	1,883	1,834	16.7	1,594	14.9	224	58	120	66	1,428	13.4
1940	99,550	1,843	1,714	17.2	1,676	16.8	237	91	126	74	1,530	15.4
1941	92,910	1,732	1,597	17.2	1,793	19.3	229	109	146	91	1,673	18.0
1942	89,480	1,712	1,590	17.8	1,492	16.7	223	63	126	79	1,332	14.9
1943	86,130	1,822	1,696	19.7	1,622	18.8	231	68	127	75	1,459	16.9
1944	91,040	2,184	2,058	22.6	1,436	15.8	189	59	104	51	1,306	14.3
1945	93,680	2,008	1,882	20.1	1,482	15.8	195	64	131	70	1,351	14.4
1946	100,360	2,257	2,206	22.0	1,464	14.6	168	48	145	66	1,344	13.4
1947	101,780	2,434	2,441	24.0	1,458	14.3	147	53	118	48	1,364	13.4
1948	106,800	2,106	2,113	19.8	1,373	12.9	137	59	89	42	1,295	12.1
1949	103,360	2,120	2,127	19.6	1,479	13.6	141	64	97	46	1,402	12.9
1950	109,400	2,026	2,015	18.4	1,494	13.7	143	61	75	37	1,412	12.9
1951	‡106,670	1,897	1,933	18.1	1,413	13.2	128	78	76	39	1,363	12.8
1952	107,100	2,024	2,007	18.7	1,340	12.5	146	74	77	38	1,268	11.8
1953	107,300	1,996	1,995	18.6	1,301	12.1	142	67	59	30	1,226	11.4
1954	107,500	2,029	2,341	19.0	1,348	12.5	184	46	65	32	1,210	11.3

NOTES.— (a) The rates in Columns 5, 7, and 13 are calculated per 1,000 of the population.

(b) “Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, died in a district other than that in which they resided.

*Modified estimate for calculation of rates, as Borough was extended on 1st April, 1936 (mid-year estimate for extended Borough, 111,800).

†The population for the calculation of the birth rate for 1939 as given by the Register-General was 110,000.

‡Modified estimate for calculation of rates, as Borough was extended on 1st April, 1951 (mid-year estimate for extended Borough, 106,800).

TABLE 5.—BIRTH-RATES, INFANT MORTALITY RATES, AND DEATH RATES FROM VARIOUS CAUSES, 1871-1954.

YEAR	Estimated Population	Birth-rate	Death -rate	PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES								Tuberculosis of other organs	Cancer	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Influenza	Deaths under 1,000 births per year
				Total	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	*Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	"Fever"	†Diarrhoea						
Mean 1871-1880...	50,580	43.1	25.5	6.0	.86	.42	1.44	.12	.78	79.	1.59	1.91	...	...	...	...	164
Mean 1881-1890...	66,520	38.8	20.5	2.3	.01	.34	.45	.10	.44	.19	.78	1.84	...	...	...	...	140
Mean 1891-1900...	87,022	36.1	20.1	2.45	.00	.44	.22	.11	.46	.28	.93	1.60	1.00	2.00	1.47	.29	166
Mean 1901-1910...	104,186	33.9	18.0	2.03	.02	.45	.17	.16	.47	.10	.66	1.50	.71	1.41	1.28	.25	140
Mean 1911-1920...	109,843	28.9	18.1	1.47	.00	.38	.09	.09	.26	.04	.61	1.53	.59	1.72	1.67	.84	126
Mean 1921-1930...	122,170	23.2	14.0	0.79	.00	.19	.03	.08	.19	.01	.29	1.33	.44	1.15	1.17	.52	99
Mean 1931-1940...	110,625	17.7	13.7	0.55	...	.12	.03	.17	.08	...	.14	1.12	.34	0.82	0.77	.36	81
Mean 1941-1950...	97,994	20.1	14.3	0.27	...	.03	.00	.09	.03	...	.12	0.92	.17	0.84	0.70	.24	60
1951 ...	106,670	18.1	12.8	0.04	...	.02	...	...	...	...	.02	0.35	.04	0.95	0.56	.32	39
1952 ...	107,100	18.7	11.8	0.06	...	.03	...	...	.01	...	.02	0.59	.01	0.82	0.67	.05	38
1953 ...	107,300	18.6	11.4	0.04	...	.01	...	...	.01	...	.02	0.30	.03	0.80	0.50	.16	29.6
1954 ...	107,500	19.0	11.3	0.03	...	.01	...	...	...	...	.02	0.32	.03	0.65	0.53	.10	31.8

* Since 1891, Membraneous Group has been included under Diphtheria. † Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) since 1905.

CANCER

During 1954 there were 207 deaths from cancer as compared with 226 in 1953 and 235 in 1952. 113 of the deaths occurred among males and 94 among females. There were 44 deaths from cancer of the respiratory system. The cancer death rate was 1.93 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 2.04 for England and Wales. Cancer accounted for 17.1 per cent of the total deaths in the Borough. 75 of the deaths occurred in hospitals.

The following table shows the numbers of cancer deaths in South Shields in 1954 analysed according to sex and to the site affected.

<i>Code</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
141	Tongue	....	....	1	—	1
142	Parotid gland	....	....	1	—	1
146	Naso-pharynx	....	....	1	—	1
150	Oesophagus	....	....	4	—	4
151	Stomach	....	....	21	25	46
153	Large intestine, except rectum			11	9	20
154	Rectum	....	....	7	6	13
155	Biliary passages and liver (primary)	....	....	2	2	4
156	Liver (secondary and unspecified)	....	....	1	3	4
157	Pancreas	....	....	2	—	2
158	Peritoneum	....	....	—	1	1
160	Nasal cavities	....	....	—	1	1
161	Larynx	....	....	2	—	2
162	Trachea, and bronchus and lung (primary)	....	....	21	1	22
163	Lung and bronchus (unspecified)			18	2	20
164	Mediastinum	....	....	—	1	1
170	Breast	....	....	—	15	15
171	Cervix uteri	....	....	—	7	7
172	Corpus uteri	....	....	—	3	3
174	Uterus, unspecified	....	....	—	5	5
175	Ovary, Fallopian tube, and broad ligament	....	....	—	3	3
177	Prostate	....	....	4	—	4
179	Male genital organs (unspecified)			1	—	1
180	Kidney	....	....	1	1	2
181	Bladder and other urinary organs			5	—	5
191	Skin (other)	....	....	1	1	2

<i>Code</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
193	Brain and other parts of nervous system	....	....	1	1	2
194	Thyroid gland	....	....	—	2	2
196	Bone (including jaw bone)	....		3	—	3
198	Lymph nodes	....	....	1	—	1
199	Other and unspecified sites	....		1	2	3
201	Hodgkins disease	....	....	1	—	1
204	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	....		2	3	5
Total				113	94	207

Deaths from cancer have shown a progressive increase during the last twenty years, particularly from cancer of the lungs and pleura. This is partly attributable to the increasing age at death as cancer usually affects the older age groups.

A slight decrease has occurred during the past two years.

The distribution, percentage of total deaths and percentage of deaths 35 years of age and upwards (i.e. the age usually affected) since 1935 is given in the following table.

CANCER DEATHS, 1935 to 1954.

Situation	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Buccal cavity and pharynx ..	11	7	7	5	10	7	8	6	4	6		6	8	6	6	2	5	10	4	3
Digestive organs and peritoneum ..	85	94	91	93	122	103	92	75	106	110	127	112	115	106	107	100	112	98	100	94
Respiratory system ..	1	4	6	7	15	7	9	19	12	10	14	24	30	31	33	41	50	33	47	46
Breast and genito-urinary organs ..	28	54	36	35	42	35	33	47	39	56	41	34	48	52	42	51	45	65	54	45
Other and unspecified sites ..	18	22	13	13	10	16	8	13	13	14	10	8	4	16	10	8	13	14	17	13
*Lymphatic & haematopoietic tissues	3	3	1	..	6	1	4	6	2	8	4	3	3	8	11	8	8	15	4	6
Total ..	146	184	154	153	205	169	154	166	176	204	200	187	208	219	209	210	233	235	226	207
*Percent. of all deaths	10.4	12.5	10.4	10.1	14.4	11.0	9.2	12.5	12.1	15.6	14.8	13.9	15.2	16.9	14.9	14.9	17.1	18.5	18.4	17.1
*Percentage of deaths 35 and over.	14.4	16.5	13.8	13.3	18.4	13.9	11.8	15.7	15.0	18.9	17.8	17.2	17.9	19.3	17.2	16.5	18.7	20.5	19.8	18.8

*Under the regulations of the World Health Organisation which came into force on 1st January, 1950, the following diseases are now classified as Cancer : Hodgkin's disease, Lymphoma (reticulosi), Leukaemia and aleukaemia and Mycosis fungoides and these diseases have therefore been added to 1935/49 figures for comparison.

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1954, taken at 9-0 a.m. (G.M.T.) daily at the Bents
Park and Health Department, South Shields.

MONTH.	Barometer (corrected for elevation, temperature, etc.).	AIR TEMPERATURE °Fahr.				HYGROMETER °Fahr.			EARTH TEMPERATURE. °Fahr.		RAINFALL (in inches).				WIND.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
		Average		Absolute.		Dry Bulb	Wet Bulb	Relative Humidity	At 1 Foot Depth	At 4 Feet Depth	Total Fall	No. of days rain fell .01" or more	Most in a day.		Direction at 9 a.m. Number of Days.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
		Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Date								Minimum	Date	Amount	Date	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	

PART II.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

The following tables give the corrected figure of all cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Borough during 1954 :—

Table A —Age Groups.

„ B —Ward Distribution.

„ C —Seasonal Incidence.

„ D —Comparative figures for past 10 years.

Table A.—Age Group of Notifications, 1954

Disease	At all ages	Under 1	1 & 2	3 & 4	5— 9	10— 14	15— 24	25— 44	45— 64	65
Scarlet Fever	102	—	15	19	50	12	3	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	312	36	72	87	111	3	3	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	11	—	4	3	2	1	1	—	—	—
Measles	1546	55	395	504	581	7	4	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia: influenzal	9	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	2	2
primary	130	9	7	5	13	7	10	21	34	24
Dysentery	132	5	29	19	40	10	8	14	6	1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	26	—	—	—	2	—	3	8	9	4
Meningococcal infection	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning	9	1	1	—	1	—	—	4	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia	48	—	—	—	—	—	22	26	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : respiratory	176	3	2	4	9	11	48	52	37	10
non-respiratory	20	—	1	1	5	1	5	5	2	—
Total	2532	113	526	643	816	52	111	137	91	43

Table B.—Ward Distribution of Notifications, 1954.

Disease	Beacon	Bents	Brinkburn	Cleadon Park	Deans	Hadrian	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park	Non-Residents	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	4	1	3	14	6	6	7	10	16	10	11	3	5	2	3	1	102
Whooping Cough ..	17	13	11	35	17	34	17	19	52	27	13	11	24	11	11	..	312
Acute poliomyelitis ..	1	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	11
Measles ..	107	70	86	37	89	144	93	80	224	98	216	77	86	60	79	..	1546
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia : influenzal	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
primary ..	9	4	4	8	8	10	7	11	8	14	15	5	12	5	5	..	9
Dysentery ..	1	7	2	13	7	23	8	7	18	4	14	11	3	5	6	3	130
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	132
Encephalitis ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Paratyphoid Fever ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ..	1	2	..	3	1	1	2	..	4	..	5	1	1	..	5	..	26
Meningococcal infection ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food poisoning ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	9
Puerperal pyrexia ..	2	2	1	5	3	..	1	3	3	8	5	2	4	1	..	8	48
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tuberculosis : respiratory ..	14	8	9	8	11	12	15	8	18	24	15	14	9	4	6	1	176
non-respiratory ..	1	2	..	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	..	20

Table C.—Seasonal Incidence of Notifications, 1954.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet fever ..	19	11	10	11	2	9	12	10	2	6	5	5	102
Whooping Cough ..	3	1	3	17	24	22	29	45	51	31	47	39	312
Acute poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	4	2	1	..	11
Measles ..	43	87	46	66	81	152	234	231	116	168	146	176	1546
Diphtheria ..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia : influenzal	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	1	9
primary ..	17	12	20	13	10	11	6	4	9	4	16	8	130
Dysentery ..	17	17	9	7	5	24	6	4	12	11	9	11	132
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute encephalitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhoid fever ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Paratyphoid fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ..	3	6	3	2	..	..	1	3	1	..	5	2	26
Meningococcal infection ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food poisoning ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	9
Puerperal pyrexia ..	3	3	1	1	5	1	4	4	6	7	4	9	48
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	4
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis : respiratory ..	10	15	13	17	21	11	13	11	14	22	14	15	176
non-respiratory ..	..	1	1	5	..	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	20
Total ..	116	156	107	140	151	236	309	317	224	256	253	267	2532

Table D.—Comparative Notifications for the past ten years.

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet fever ..	296	164	109	197	230	106	208	318	176	102
Whooping Cough ..	370	343	337	386	481	202	519	561	227	312
Acute poliomyelitis ..	..	2	18	3	11	23	7	6	2	11
Acute polioencephalitis ..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	991	1,410	394	1,959	1,368	1,194	1,704	1,676	1,259	1,546
Diphtheria ..	125	77	60	50	20	5	3	..	..	..
Pneumonia : influenza ..	10	23	13	15	12	23	24	7	17	9
primary ..	159	223	187	216	218	133	120	99	129	130
Dysentery ..	5	3	18	5	8	272	20	36	16	132
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis lethargica ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5	1	1	1
Acute encephalitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid fever ..	1	..	..	2	10	4	4	5	4	3
Paratyphoid fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas ..	34	40	27	36	31	20	29	17	20	26
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	2	4	8	6	..	6	3	10	9	1
Meningococcal infection ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food poisoning ..	..	12	3	25	40	55	11	45	15	9
Puerperal pyrexia ..	23	23	21	28	16	11	33	58	50	48
Ophthalmia neonatorum ..	28	18	17	18	7	8	6	5	2	4
Malaria ..	6	13	4	3	..	9	3	3	2	1
Pemphigus neonatorum ..	6	6	9	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
Tuberculosis : respiratory ..	177	222	165	195	188	166	208	236	237	176
non-respiratory ..	75	54	54	45	36	35	36	24	23	20

Hospital Treatment

During 1954, 150 cases of infectious diseases belonging to South Shields were treated in hospitals as under :—

			<i>Deans Hosp.</i>	<i>General Hosp.</i>	<i>Ingham Infirmary</i>	<i>Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	..	..	42	—	—	—	42
Typhoid Fever		..	2	1	1	—	4
Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	5	3	—	1	9
Dysentery	..	..	22	7	12	1	42
Food poisoning	..	..	1	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal infection			—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	..	..	4	19	3	—	26
Measles	..	..	18	—	—	—	18
Erysipelas	..	..	1	—	—	—	1
Malaria	..	..	—	1	—	—	1
Chickenpox	..	..	2	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough		..	3	—	—	—	3
			—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	..	100	32	16	2	150

In addition, 12 patients were admitted to the Deans Hospital, suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases which were not confirmed on subsequent diagnosis.

Infectious Disease Contacts—Transfers from other areas

Forty-eight persons who entered the country by air had come from a smallpox infected area, while 5 persons who entered the country by sea had been in contact with typhoid fever and one with poliomyelitis. Four persons had been in contact in another part of the country with poliomyelitis and 4 with meningococcal infection.

All these contacts were kept under observation for the necessary period but none contracted any of the diseases.

Food Poisoning : Memo 188/Med., Appendix D (i)

The following is a summary of the cases which occurred during the year.

- (1) 1st Quarter—1 2nd Quarter—1 3rd Quarter—7
4th Quarter—Nil. Total—9.
- (2) Outbreaks due to Identified Agents :—
Total : 1 Total cases : 2 Fatal Cases : Nil.
(*Salmonella typhi-murium*)
- (3) Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause : Nil.

(4) Single Cases : Total 7 : Fatal : Nil.

Agents identified :

(a) Salmonella typhi-murium	....	....	4
(b) Staphylococcus aureus	....	....	3

Laboratory Examinations

The following is a classified list of pathological examinations, etc., carried out at various laboratories for the Public Health Department.

			<i>Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle.</i>	<i>General Hospital South Shields.</i>
Throat or Nasal Swabs	....	....	—	12
Urine	....	....	6	—
Faeces	....	....	714	2
Miscellaneous Blood, etc.	....	....	9	1
Total	....	....	729	15

Whooping Cough

312 cases were notified and in addition 61 cases were reported by Head Teachers. Immunisation with a combined vaccine for diphtheria and whooping cough was commenced in December, 1951. The following table shows the number of cases in age groups and cases occurring who had previously received a complete course of immunising vaccine, together with the total immunisations carried out in 1954.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Cases of Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Cases previously immunised</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Immunisa- tions 1954</i>
Under 1	36	1	—	231
1—2	72	2	—	1,028
3—4	87	10	—	86
5—9	111	14	—	34
10—14	3	1	—	4
15+	3	—	—	—
Total	312	28	—	1,383

Notes on certain infectious diseases, 1954.

Scarlet fever

106 cases were notified; in four of these the diagnosis was not confirmed.

44 cases (42%) were admitted to hospital. There were no fatal cases.

Measles

1,546 cases were notified. 19 cases were treated in hospital. There was one fatal case.

Dysentery

132 cases were notified. 43 were treated in hospital. There were no fatal cases.

Enteric Fever.

Nine cases were reported. Five of these were found to be suffering from conditions other than enteric fever.

The four confirmed cases were as follows :—

A medical practitioner who was probably infected on the Continent.

An Arab seamen who had been in hospital suffering from tuberculosis for three months prior to notification as a case of enteric fever; discovered to be infected in a routine check and regarded as a 'carrier'.

A woman of 72 who was discovered as a 'carrier' in a routine family check as contact of food poisoning case.

A woman of 40, a doctor's receptionist, who was regarded as a clinical case of paratyphoid although repeated faeces and urine tests were negative and Widal test was indefinite.

Meningococcal infection

One case, a boy of 3 years who died in hospital.

Encephalitis

One case (post infectious—measles) a boy of 5 years who died.

Poliomyelitis

Sixteen cases were reported. Eleven of these were confirmed, two non-paralytic and nine paralytic, none severe; no fatal cases.

The first confirmed case, a girl of 14, was notified on 25th June and the other cases were notified at intervals until mid-November. The eleven cases were all children, six girls and five boys, ages ranging from 16 months to 15 years. Despite intensive enquiries, no connection was traced between any of the cases, nine of which were treated in hospital.

Undulant Fever

A man of 19 was reported as suffering from undulant fever. He had been working as electrician at several farms in Northumberland. Enquiries regarding brucellosis proved negative. Later, this patient was notified as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis.

Infective Hepatitis.

In December 1953, local medical practitioners were requested to report cases of this disease occurring in their practice. Up to the end of 1954, 111 cases had been reported. Of these, 53 were children up to ten years of age—19 boys and 34 girls; and the other 58 cases (24 males and 34 females) were evenly distributed over age groups up to 70 years.

There was family contact in seven cases; two cases occurred two weeks after the date of onset in a sibling, one case three weeks after, three cases four weeks after and two cases six weeks after. Five other patients had a history of school contact with cases of 'jaundice'.

The cases were evenly distributed over the town and there was no special concentration in any one area or street.

There was a history of previous parenteral injection within the previous 8 months in 26 cases (23%).

The symptoms in 8 cases (all under ten years of age) were stated to have been severe, 47 of moderate severity and 56 mild.

PART III.—LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

National Health Service Acts 1946-52

Section 22.—Care of Mothers and Young Children

Notification of Births

The number of births notified or registered in the Borough during 1954, was as follows :—

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
DOMICILIARY BIRTHS :		
Notified by midwives	1,172	12
Notified by doctors	—	—
Registered (and not notified)	1	—
BIRTHS IN GENERAL HOSPITAL :		
Notified by midwives	825	44
	1,998	56
Less—Born in General Hospital to mothers not normally resident in the Borough :	214	20
	1,784	36
Add—Born outside Borough to mothers normally resident in the town:		
In Institutions	*240	—
At Private Addresses	5	—
Net Total	2,029	36

*The institutions outside the Borough where the births occurred, were as follows :—

	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
Danesfield Maternity Home, Jarrow	159	—
Princess Mary's Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne	34	—
Lealholme Nursing Home, Sunderland	5	—
Hopedene Maternity Hospital, Newcastle	14	—
Ashleigh Nursing Home, Gosforth	8	—
Royal Infirmary, Sunderland	4	—
Preston Hospital, North Shields	1	—
Dilston Hall, Corbridge	1	—
General Hospital, Newcastle	5	—

			<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>
Frater Maternity Home, Tynemouth	....		1	—
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	....		1	—
Ravensbourne Maternity Home, Gosforth			1	—
Royal Free Hospital, London	....	....	1	—
St. Agnes Hostel, Newcastle	....	....	1	—
Maternity Hospital, Sunderland	....	....	2	—
Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield	....	....	2	—
Total			240	—

The total births 2,029 correspond to a birth rate for 1954 of 19.0 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 18.6 in 1953 and 18.7 in 1952.

Included in this total are 34 sets of twins :—

- 11 sets born at home.
- 22 sets born in General Hospital.
- 1 set born in other Hospitals.

Premature Infants

The number of premature live births (i.e. weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year as belonging South Shields was 169; 73 of these were born at home, 92 in the General Hospital and 4 in nursing homes outside of town.

The survival of these during the first 28 days of life is shown in the following table :—

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	*Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day		
	Total (2)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (3)	Survived 28 days (4)	Total (5)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (6)	Survived 28 days (7)	Total (8)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (9)	Survived 28 days (10)	Total (11)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (12)	Survived 28 days (13)	Total (14)	Died within 24 hrs. of birth (15)	Survived 28 days (16)
(a) 3 lb 4 oz or less (1,500 gms. or less) ...	14	8	6	5	1	3	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Over 3 lb 4 oz up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz (1,500-2,000 gms.) ...	19	1	15	5	1	4	6	—	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
(c) Over 4 lb 6 oz up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.) ...	22	—	21	9	—	9	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
(d) Over 4 lb 15 oz up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.) ...	37	—	37	38	—	38	4	—	3	2	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	92	9	79	57	2	54	16	1	13	4	—	4	—	—	—

*The group under this heading will include cases which may be born in one hospital and transferred to another.

Premature Still Births

Of the 36 still-births recorded, 20 were premature; 5 occurred at home and 15 in General Hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were 4 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year, occurring in domiciliary confinements.

No impairment of vision occurred in any of these cases,

45 other cases of “discharging eyes” were notified by midwives.

One of these cases was under treatment at the end of the year. There was no impairment of vision in the remainder of the cases. One of the two cases under treatment at the end of 1953 developed a cataract of the right eye.

Pemphigus Neonatorum.

No cases were notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

48 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified, 24 of which occurred in the General Hospital and 24 in domiciliary confinements. Six of the cases nursed at home were referred to the nurses of the South Shields and District Nursing Association.

Infant Mortality

There were 65 deaths among infants under one year of age (43 boys and 22 girls) ; an infantile mortality rate of 32.0 per 1,000 births. The neo-natal infant mortality was 17.7 per 1,000 births.

Deaths among illegitimate children numbered 2 out of 78 births, compared with 63 deaths among 1,963 legitimate children.

The principal causes of deaths in infants were :—

Prematurity	....	....	21
Congenital defects	....	....	16
Bronchitis	....	....	1
Pneumonia	....	....	16
Enteritis	....	....	2
Other causes	....	....	9

Maternal Mortality

There was one death among South Shields mothers during the year due to pregnancy.

The cause of death was "Shock—P.P. haemorrhage— retained placenta."

There was also one death associated with pregnancy, the cause being "Broncho pneumonia—Pulmonary oedema—R. sided heart failure."

The maternal death-rate (based on one death) was 0.48 per 1,000 total births as compared with 2.01 in 1953. The rate for England and Wales was 0.69 per 1,000 total births.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Three clinics are in use as follows :—

Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade.
 "Nook" Assembly Hall, Cleadon and the
 Community Centre Hut, Steward Crescent.

Number of sessions held during the year	....	....	359
Women attending	....	....	1,741
New Cases	....	....	1,516
Total attendances	....	....	13,049

Post-Natal Clinics

Patients were seen at the
 Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade.

Number of sessions held during the year	....	....	48
Women attending (total)	....	....	89
New cases	....	....	89
Total attendances	....	....	101

DEATHS DURING 1954 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR. CAUSES AND AGES

CAUSES OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year	Males	Females
All causes: Certified ..		30	1	2	1	34	8	9	6	5	62	41	21
Uncertified ..		2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	2	1
Code													
053	Septicaemia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
331	Haemorrhage ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
340	Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
434	Congestive heart disease ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
491/763	Broncho Pneumonia ..	2	—	—	—	2	6	5	1	2	16	12	4
500	Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
527	Other disease of lung ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
570	Intussusception ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
571	Gastro Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—
750/59	Con. Malformations ..	1	1	—	1	3	—	1	2	2	8	4	4
760	Birth Injury ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
762	Atelectasis ..	3	—	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	5	2	3
774/76	Immaturity ..	21	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	15	6
E921	Inhalation of food ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
E926	Inattention at Birth ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
E924	Acc. Asphyxia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
TOTAL ..		32	1	2	1	36	9	9	6	5	65	43	22

DEATHS DURING 1954 OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR: CAUSES AND WARD
DISTRIBUTION.

CAUSES OF DEATH		WARDS														TOTAL	
		Beacon	Bents	Brinkburn	Cleaddon Park	Deans	Hadrian	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe		West Park
ALL CAUSES—Certified		3	2	1	1	8	5	3	1	4	9	9	6	7	2	1	62
Uncertified		—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Code																	
053	Septicaemia	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
331	Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
340	Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
434	Congestive heart disease	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
491/763	Broncho pneumonia	..	1	..	..	3	1	3	1	1	2	2	..	1	..	..	16
500	Bronchitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
527	Other disease of lung	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
570	Intussusception	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
571	Gastro Enteritis	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2

CAUSES OF DEATH	WARDS															TOTAL
	Beacon	Bents	Brinkburn	Cleadon Park	Deans	Hadrian	Harton	Horsley Hill	Marsden	Rekendyke	Simonside	Tyne Dock	Victoria	Westoe	West Park	
Code	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	8
750/59 Con. Malformations	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
760 Birth injury	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	..	..	5
762 Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	3	1	2	..	21
774/76 Immaturity	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	1
E921 Inhalation of food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1
E926 Inattention at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
E924 Acc. Asphyxia	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total deaths under one year	3	2	1	1	8	5	4	3	4	9	9	6	7	2	1	65
*Number of Births	134	86	111	91	145	156	103	112	196	222	243	162	134	64	70	2029
*Infant Mortality Rate	22.4	23.3	9.0	11.0	62.1	32.1	38.8	26.8	20.4	40.5	37.0	37.0	52.2	31.3	14.3	32.0

*The births dealt with in this table are (a) 1,784 live births notified under the Public Health Act; and (b) 245 inward transfers from other districts, but 214 births in the General Hospital among non-residents of the Borough are excluded. Elsewhere in this report the Registrar-General's figures of births registered during the calendar year have been used for the calculation of birth rates.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 10/54, the administration and distribution of Welfare Foods was transferred from the Ministry of Food to Local Health Authorities on 28th June, 1954. The transfer was effected smoothly and as the Ministry of Food already used our Clinics as distributing centres no radical changes were necessary. Three clerks already doing this work were transferred to the local Health Authority.

Food is distributed from the Clinics as follows :

		<i>Weekly Sessions</i>
Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade		
Monday to Friday	Mornings and afternoons	
Saturday	Mornings	11
Nook Hall, Sunderland Road		
Tuesday	Afternoons	1
Community Centre Hut, Steward Crescent		
Wednesday	Afternoons	
Friday	Afternoons	2
West Harton Methodist Church Hall, Boldon Lane		
Wednesday	Mornings	1
Ingham Street Hall		
Thursday	Afternoons	1
Youth Club, Hudson Street		
Friday	Afternoons	1
		<hr/>
Total ....	....	17 sessions
		<hr/>

The total amounts issued were as follows :—

Under Circular 10/54 (6 months only)

National Dried Milk (tins)	....	....	....	....	69,236
Cod Liver oil (bottles)	....	....	....	....	10,362
Vitamin A. & D. Tablets (packets)	....	....	....	....	2,415
Orange Juice (bottles)....	....	....	....	....	39,058

Under Local Health Authority's other Arrangements (12 months)

Virol (cartons)	4,517
-----------------	------	------	------	------	-------

Day Nurseries

The following is a statement of the work of the two Day Nurseries, Nos. 1 and 29, Beach Road, for the past year. There is accommodation for 40 children in each nursery.

	<i>1 Beach Road</i>	<i>29 Beach Road</i>
No. of children on the register at end of 1953	39	37
Admissions during 1954 :—		
Under 2 years old	27	23
2—5 years old	32	27
No. of attendances during 1954 :—		
Under 2 years old	2,292	2,310
2—5 years old	5,570	5,461
Average attendance per session :—		
Under 2 years old	8.8	8.8
2—5 years old	21.4	20.8
No. of children on the register at the end of 1954 :—		
Under 2 years old	10	11
2—5 years old	24	24

The admission of children on the authority of the Matron, without waiting for the formal approval of the Sub-Committee, is working satisfactorily.

Taken over the whole year, the percentage of children whose mothers were in full employment was 93.7 % and 3.8 % were compassionate cases.

Ultra Violet-Ray Treatment

176 children made 2,042 attendances. Conditions treated were :—

Debility	94
Chest diseases	45
Rickets, etc.	29
Skin diseases	3
Other	5

Care of Illegitimate Children

The scheme for the care of illegitimate children and unmarried mothers is carried out by a joint committee of the Council and the Jarrow Deanery Moral Welfare Association. A full-time welfare worker is employed with an office in South Shields. Her duties, however, also embrace the areas of neighbouring authorities.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the welfare worker for South Shields cases during 1954 :—

No. of	unmarried mothers seeking help and advice	....	27
„	married women with illegitimate children	....	16
„	mothers admitted to hostels	....	8
„	South Shields children placed elsewhere	....	7

Dental Treatment

The tables on the following page give a summary of the work carried out by the Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Surgeon during 1954.

Nursing and Expectant Mothers

The work has mainly been devoted to prosthesis, and extraction for relief of pain. The extractions have all been undertaken under a local anaesthetic. Mothers requiring multiple extractions under a general anaesthetic have been referred to Harton General Hospital for treatment.

Conservation has been very limited.

It is hoped during 1955 to initiate dental inspections for maternity cases and so provide a fuller conservative service.

Children under Five Years of Age

The children under five years of age are usually seen only when they are brought to the Clinic by their parents suffering from tooth-ache. Extractions for these cases were all undertaken under a general anaesthetic—ethyl chloride being used, and administered by one of the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officers.

Facilities

The Clinic contains three surgeries, recovery room and waiting room. One of the surgeries is fitted with a Sterling Unit and operating light, a second surgery with wall bracket motor and Sterling pedestal spittoon. The third surgery, as yet, does not contain a running water spittoon, although steps are being taken to provide a complete Dental Unit in this surgery.

X-ray facilities are not available at the Clinic and when required patients have to be referred to Ingham Infirmary, South Shields

Dental Mechanics

Dentures are supplied through a private laboratory in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

4. DENTAL CARE OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE

(1)

(a) Number of Officers employed at end of year on a salary basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service :—									
(1) Senior Dental Officer		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.25
(2) Dental Officers		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
(b) Number of Officers employed at end of year on a sessional basis in terms of whole-time officers to the maternity and child welfare service									
.. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.09
(c) Number of dental clinics in operation at end of year									
.. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(d) Total number of sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients during the year. . .									
.. ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97
(e) Number of dental technicians employed in the Local Health Authority's own laboratories at the end of the year									
..	—

(2) DENTAL TREATMENT RETURN

A. NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE:

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	166	161	130	67
Children under Five	137	135	135	60

B. FORMS OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	—	11	—	—	109	—	98	22	—
Children under Five	—	—	—	—	486	140	—	—	—

Section 23.—Midwifery Service

Intention to practise

46 midwives notified their intention to practise during 1954. Of these, 19 were in the maternity hospital, and 27 were municipal domiciliary midwives. At the end of the year 23 midwives were in the municipal service and 17 in the maternity hospital.

Suspension from practice

There were no temporary suspensions of midwives notified to the Central Midwives Board on account of infectious conditions.

Domiciliary Midwives

1,173 births were attended in their own homes, 27 less than in 1953. Of the total births to South Shields residents (2,065), 57.6% occurred at home and 42.4% in hospital. In 279 cases the services of a doctor as well as a midwife were engaged. In 301 cases medical aid was sought by the midwives under Section 9 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1936.

The following table gives a summary of the work of the domiciliary midwives during 1954 :—

Number of births attended :—

As midwives	....	....	....	918
As nurses	....	....	....	255
Other cases (miscarriages, etc.)				27

In addition 712 patients were attended on their discharge from hospital before the 14th day.

The number of visits paid were as follows :—

Morning visits	....	....	19,718
Evening visits	....	....	3,805
Pre-natal visits	....	....	8,167
Post-natal visits	....	....	1,691
Total	....	....	<u>33,381</u>

Gas and Air Analgesia.

957 patients had “gas and air” analgesia administered by the midwives in their confinements. This represents 80% of home deliveries.

(a) When acting as a midwife	....	....	....	720
(b) When acting as a maternity nurse	....	....	....	237

All the municipal midwives are now qualified to administer analgesia.

Notifications from Midwives

The following notifications were received at the Health Department from domiciliary midwives :—

Sending for medical aid				301 (301 cases, 305 causes)
Intention to practice	....	....		24
Artificial feeding	....	....		96
Deaths: Mothers	....	....		—
Infants	....	....		6
Still births....	....	....		10
Source of infection	....	....		7

Medical Aid under Section 14 (i) of the Midwives' Act, 1951.

The principal reasons for calling in medical aid were :—

(a) DOMICILIARY CASES—

(1) Mothers.

Malpresentations, delayed or prolonged labour	....						24
Abortion or threatened abortion	....	....	....				25
Haemorrhage	....	....	....	....	....		23
Perineal rupture	....	....	....	....	....		54
Increased pulse and temperature	....	....	....	....	....		28
Toxaemia	....	....	....	....	....		12
Albuminuria, oedema	....	....	....	....	....		26
Retained placenta	....	....	....	....	....		7
Phlebitis	....	....	....	....	....		8
Other causes....	....	....	....	....	....		19

(2) Babies.

Prematurity	....	....	....	....	....		—
Feebleness and jaundice	....	....	....	....	....		8
Discharging eyes	....	....	....	....	....		45
Deformities, injury	....	....	....	....	....		1
Cold	....	....	....	....	....		5
Septic spots	....	....	....	....	....		12
Other causes	....	....	....	....	....		8

(b) INSTITUTIONAL CASES WHERE MEDICAL AID WAS SUMMONED, NUMBERED	....	....	....	....	333
Total	....	....	....	....	634

Part II Training School for Pupil Midwives

The following is a summary of the work :—

In training on 1st January, 1954	....	....	....	....	7
New students during 1954	....	....	....	....	21
Still training on 31st December, 1954	....	....	....	....	12
Number of students who entered for Part II of the Board's Examination	....	....	....	....	16
Number of students who passed examination	....	....	....	....	16

Thirteen pupils also completed training to administer “gas and air” analgesia.

Wassermann Tests

1,182 routine Wassermann tests were carried out, of which, 8 gave positive results. 8 patients were referred to special clinics. In addition 3 patients were referred to the Chest Clinic.

Defects Found

The following were the defects found among the mothers :—

Dental caries	....	....	....	....	389
Respiratory diseases	....	....	....	....	3
Varicose veins	....	....	....	....	299
Oedema	....	....	....	....	158
Albuminuria	....	....	....	....	36
Raised blood pressure	....	....	....	....	105
Glycosuria	....	....	....	....	47
Cardiac disease	....	....	....	....	25

Rhesus Factor

1,149 specimens of blood from expectant mothers and 142 cord specimens from babies were examined for Rhesus Factor. 991 were Rhesus positive and 290 were negative. (Ten mothers were admitted to hospital with active anti-bodies). Four of the cord specimens from babies were positive. In addition, 116 specimens of blood were taken from fathers, 98 of which were positive and 18 negative.

Maternity Outfits

1,340 complete outfits were distributed to expectant mothers from the Health Department during 1954.

Training Courses

Post-graduate training courses were taken by two of the midwives during 1954.

Section 24.—Health Visiting.

Staff

As at 31st December, 1954.:

13 Full-time Health Visitors
1 Student Health Visitor

One health visitor resigned and left the staff on 15th June. A Student Health Visitor was appointed and commenced her training in Newcastle on 1st June, 1954. The vacancy will be filled by the student when she has completed her training and passed her examinations which admits her to the Health Visitors' Roll.

Duties and Responsibilities of Health Visitors

The National Health Service Act of 1946 widened the field and increased the scope of the Health Visitors work.

Her duties and responsibilities now cover all members of the community, both young and old, and families in South Shields are visited and advised as family units. There is nowadays less routine visiting to healthy children and more specialised visiting of which the following are a few examples :—

Care of the Aged.
Follow up of Hospital discharges.
Handicapped children.
Problem families.
Tuberculosis contact visiting with special regard to
B.C.G. vaccination for child contacts.

Refresher Courses

In 1954 three health visitors attended a course held in Oxford: Misses Whitfield, Jopling and McGlasham.

The Integration of Public Health teaching into the Curriculum of the Student Nurse.

At intervals during the year, at the request of the Sister Tutors of the Ingham Infirmary and General Hospital we have arranged for senior student hospital nurses to visit on the district with a Health Visitor to gain knowledge of the background and social conditions of the homes of the public who might become their patients. This has proved a success and is greatly appreciated by the Sister Tutors and Nurses.

Student Nurses in their first three months of training are also brought to the clinic to be shown the various departments and clinics and a short talk is given by the Superintendent Health Visitor on the work carried out by the Public Health Staff.

Co-operation and Liason with the Chest Clinic

During 1954 a School Nurse was allocated to the Tuberculosis Clinic for two sessions per week to assist in clinics dealing with B.C.G. vaccination of children.

Infant Welfare Clinics

The Health Visitors have commenced giving short health talks to groups of mothers with the aid of flannelgraphs and posters etc.

Talks and propaganda by Health Visitors on vaccination have resulted in an increase of numbers of children vaccinated.

During 1954 the Health Visitors paid the following visits to homes:

Expectant mothers :	1st Visits	....	....	....	491
	Subsequent visits	....	....	....	57
Post-natal mothers	....	....	....	....	20
Children under 1 year of age:	1st visits	....	....	....	2,024
	Subsequent visits	....	....	....	10,841
Children aged 1 and 2 years:	visits	....	....	....	5,533
Children aged 2 to 5 years:	visits	....	....	....	15,440
Visits re still births	....	....	....	....	41
„ infant deaths	....	....	....	....	72
„ adopted children	....	....	....	....	11
„ domestic helps	....	....	....	....	35
„ tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	4,993
„ other infectious diseases	....	....	....	....	2,420
„ admission to hospitals	....	....	....	....	1,241
„ B.C.G. vaccination	....	....	....	....	140

Child Welfare Centres

Seven morning and eight afternoon clinics are held each week. Three of the morning clinics are devoted to toddlers. Five sessions are held at the Municipal Clinic and ten at the branch clinics, as follows :—

- Municipal Clinic, Stanhope Parade—Tuesday and Thursday mornings; Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.
- “Nook” Hall, Cleadon Park—Wednesday and Thursday mornings; Tuesday afternoon.
- West Harton Methodist Church Hall—Wednesday and Friday mornings.
- Ingham Street Hall—Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon.
- Hudson Street Youth Club—Friday afternoon.
- Steward Crescent Community Centre Hut—Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

The following is a summary of the work at these Centres :—

New attenders during 1954	....	....	1,633
Total number of attendances	....	....	28,289
Number of sessions held	....	....	744

Section 25.—Home Nursing Service

The following is a summary of the work of the South Shields and District Nursing Association :—

Cases on books at 1st January, 1954	....	....	246
New cases—Medical	....	....	961
Surgical	....	....	301
Infectious diseases	....	....	4
Tuberculosis	....	....	25
Maternal complications	....	....	42
Ear, Nose and Throat	....	....	220
Carcinoma	....	....	98
Pneumonia	....	....	117
Influenza	....	....	56
Diabetes	....	....	23
Cerebral conditions	....	....	74
		————	1,921
Visits paid by nurses	....	....	44,733
Patients over 65 years of age	....	....	653
Children under 5 years of age	....	....	110
Patients who had more than 24 visits during the year	....	....	336
Cases remaining on books at 31st December, 1954			263

Section 26.—Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against Smallpox

Of the 1,930 births occurring in 1953 and surviving on 31st December, 1953—398 infants (20.6%) were successfully vaccinated by the 31st December, 1954.

Of children surviving at 12 months of age :—

From 1920 to 1929	....	....	....43.1 %	were successfully vaccinated.
From 1930 to 1939	....	....	....38.8 %	were successfully vaccinated.
From 1940 to 1948 (4th July)			....41.4 %	were successfully vaccinated.
From 5th July, 1948 to end of 1953			....17.3 %	were successfully vaccinated.

During 1954—721 vaccinations (346 by private practitioners and 375 by our medical officers) and 169 re-vaccinations (166 by private practitioners and 3 by our medical officers) were carried out.

Since the National Health Service Act came into force on 5th July, 1948, certificates of successful vaccinations as under have been received :—

VACCINATIONS.		*1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	
Under 1 year old	....	102	122	287	351	354	444	592
One year old	{	....	....	....	25	14	18	27
2 to 4 years		14	63	75	44	32	33	18
5 to 14 years		9	16	33	45	39	29	23
Over 15 years	....	16	30	106	95	111	108	61
Total Vaccinations		141	231	501	560	550	632	721	

RE-VACCINATIONS.

2 to 4 years	....	—	2	6	1	—	8	7
5 to 14 years	....	2	8	20	11	19	9	26
Over 15 years	....	33	46	203	166	147	190	136
Total Re-Vaccinations		35	56	229	178	166	207	169

*6 months only.

It is estimated that not more than 4.2% of the total population have been vaccinated during the past 7 years. As South Shields is a sea port visited by all nationalities, the gravity of the position is apparent.

Diphtheria Immunisation

1,670 children were immunised during 1954, of these 1,339 were immunised by medical officers of the Health Department.

In addition 1,932 children had reinforcing treatment. It was estimated that at the end of 1954, 89% of the school children in the Borough and 57% of children under 5 years of age, had been immunised.

For some time it has been agreed that, because individual immunity tends to wane with the passage of time, an assessment of the extent to which a local population has been protected must take into account the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years. These figures are given under para. A of the following table. Para. D gives the resultant index, which is the percentage of children immunised during the past 5 years. This is still far from satisfactory and parents are urged in the interests of their children to ensure that immunisation and later re-inforcing immunisation is carried out.

I. IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. Born in Year	—1 1954	1—4 1953—1950	5—9 1949—1945	10—14 1944—1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1950—1954 ..	260	5,257	7,374	2,896	15,787
B. 1949 or earlier ..	—	—	1,018	3,935	4,953
C. Estimated mid-year child population ..	2,030	7,670	17,200		26,900
D. Immunity Index .. 100 A/C	12.8	68.5	59.7		58.7
II. DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATION					
E. Number of cases notified ..	—	—	—	—	—
F. Number in which child had com- pleted a full course of im- munisation ..	—	—	—	—	—
III. DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA					
G. Number of deaths	—	—	—	—	—
H. Number in which child had com- pleted a full course of im- munisation ..	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the annual number of cases of diphtheria in *England and Wales* since the National Immunisation Campaign was launched in 1940, and the number of deaths :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1940	36,281	2,480
1941	50,797	2,641
1942	41,404	1,827
1943	34,662	1,371
1944	23,199	934
1945	18,596	722
1946	11,986	472
1947	5,609	244
1948	3,575	156
1949	1,890	84
1950	962	49
1951	664	33
1952	376	32
1953	266	23
1954	*182	*9

*Provisional figures.

The following table shows the annual number of cases of diphtheria in *South Shields* and the number of deaths and children immunised since *the campaign began here in 1938* :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Children (under 15) Immunised</i>
1938	598	61	4,649
1939	493	44	11,441
1940	187	25	12,882
1941	183	25	13,226
1942	201	17	15,998
1943	234	18	17,140
1944	178	8	17,651
1945	125	7	17,881
1946	77	2	17,527
1947	60	2	17,647
1948	50	2	18,070
1949	20	2	18,947
1950	5	1	19,357
1951	3	None	20,000
1952	None	None	20,143
1953	None	None	20,450
1954	None	None	20,740

None of the patients who died from diphtheria had been immunised.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

1,383 children were immunised against whooping cough during the year ; 1,343 combined with diphtheria prophylactic and 40 whooping cough vaccine alone.

The ages of the children were as follows :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria</i>	<i>Whooping Cough only</i>	<i>Total</i>
0+	231	—	231
1+	876	4	880
2+	142	6	148
3+	38	6	44
4+	24	18	42
5+	21	5	26
6+	5	1	6
7+	1	—	1
8+	—	—	—
9+	1	—	1
10+	2	—	2
11+	—	—	—
12+	1	—	1
13+	—	—	—
14+	1	—	1
Totals	1,343	40	1,383

Section 27.—Ambulance Service

The following is a statement of the work of the Ambulance Service during 1954 :—

	<i>By Ambulance</i>	<i>By Sitting Case Cars</i>
(1) PATIENTS.		
Removals to or from addresses in South Shields	30,603	1,825
Removals to or from addresses outside South Shields	4,397	652
Total patients	<u>35,000</u>	<u>2,477</u>
(2) JOURNEYS.		
Journeys with patients in South Shields	8,685	673
Journeys with patients outside South Shields	1,761	440
Accidents and Emergencies	1,458	—
Infectious Disease cases	313	—
Midwives with Analgesia Apparatus	1,819	106
Other journeys	321	9
Total journeys	<u>14,357</u>	<u>1,228</u>
(3) MILEAGE.		
Mileage in South Shields	87,812	7,704
Mileage outside South Shields	51,609	14,935
Total mileage	<u>139,421</u>	<u>22,639</u>

At the end of the year there were in service 7 ambulances and 2 cars. There were 22 driver-attendants, one ambulance superintendent and one telephone operator.

The cost of the service for the year ending 31st March, 1954, was £19,977. Two Shillings and nine pence per vehicle mile.

In 1954 each journey averaged 10.4 miles and 2.4 patients were carried as compared with 9.8 miles and 2.1 patients for 1953.

Section 28.—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

TUBERCULOSIS

Incidence of Tuberculosis

No. of South Shields residents on the tuberculosis notification register on 1st January, 1954	....	....	1,179
Cases notified during 1954....	....	....	196
Non-notified fatal cases	....	....	3
Notified posthumously	....	....	—
Cases re-admitted to register	....	....	15
“Inward” Transfers	....	....	18
			<hr/> 1,411 <hr/>

Cases removed from register :—

Deaths from tuberculosis or other disease	....	....	48
Left the town	....	....	26
Two years untraced	....	....	7
Three years free (non-respiratory)	....	....	6
Five years free (respiratory)	....	....	57
Wrong diagnosis or notification withdrawn		....	13
Not requiring further assistance	....	....	48
			<hr/> 205 <hr/>

Number of cases on register at end of 1954 1,206

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	....	....	585	514	1,099
Non-respiratory	....	....	51	56	107
			<hr/> 636 <hr/>	<hr/> 570 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,206 <hr/>

There was an increase of 27 cases on the register on the 31st December as compared with the 1st January, 1954.

Of the 196 cases notified there were :—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	....	....	109	67	176
Non-respiratory	....	....	14	6	20

The following table shows the number of “new cases” (including the 3 un-notified) classified according to age.

AGE GROUP					Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	....	....	....	....	3	—	—	—
1+ years	....	....	....	....	1	—	—	1
2— 4 years	....	....	....	....	3	2	1	1
5— 9 years	....	....	....	....	3	6	5	—
10—14 years	....	....	....	....	7	4	1	—
15—19 years	....	....	....	....	13	15	1	2
20—24 years	.....		....	....	8	12	1	1
25—34 years	....	....	....	....	14	11	4	1
35—44 years	....	....	....	....	20	9	—	—
45—54 years	....	....	....	....	8	5	1	—
55—64 years	....	....	....	....	23	1	—	1
65—74 years	....	....	....	....	6	3	—	—
75+ years	....	....	....	....	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	110	68	14	7

These figures include 6 Arabs, 5 of whom were respiratory cases:—

Males age 57, 55, 55, and 40	....	....	....	4
Female age 33	....	....	....	1
One non-respiratory case male aged 5	....	....	....	1
Total	....	....	....	<u>6</u>

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified or ascertained during each of the past ten years is as follows :—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
NOTIFIED :—										
Respiratory	177	222	165	195	188	166	206	232	237	176
Non-respiratory	75	54	54	45	36	35	36	24	23	20
NOT NOTIFIEDED :										
Respiratory	7	8	9	8	10	1	4	4	3	2
Non-respiratory	7	4	1	2	2	1	1	—	1	1
Total	266	288	229	250	236	203	247	260	264	199
Notification rate	2.84	2.87	2.25	2.34	2.18	1.86	2.31	2.43	2.46	1.85
Cases per 100 deaths	251	280	283	309	207	303	588	406	754	524

During 1954, 199 new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the County Borough, 65 less than in 1953. Of these 178 were respiratory and 21 in which the disease affected organs other than the lungs. The notification rate was 1.85 per 1,000 of the population (1.66 respiratory and 0.19 non-respiratory).

**Age and Sex of Cases on Notification Register
as on 31st December, 1954**

Age Groups	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Respiratory	Non-respiratory	Respiratory	Non-respiratory	
0- 4 years	14	1	13	4	32
5- 9 years	31	15	36	9	91
10-14 years	33	14	31	10	88
15-19 years	45	5	64	9	123
20-24 years	51	3	103	7	164
25-29 years	66	4	99	5	174
30-34 years	70	4	66	5	145
35-39 years	46	1	31	2	80
40-44 years	43	1	21	—	65
45-49 years	42	1	21	—	64
50-54 years	45	2	10	2	59
55-59 years	37	—	5	1	43
60-64 years	36	—	7	2	45
65-69 years	19	—	4	—	23
70-74 years	3	—	2	—	5
75-79 years	2	—	1	—	3
80-84 years	2	—	—	—	2
Totals ..	585	51	514	56	1206

Mortality

Tuberculosis caused 38 deaths during 1954—35 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory. This represents a death rate of 0.35 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.33 for 1953.

The death rate in South Shields from tuberculosis during the past ten years was as follows :—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Respiratory	0.93	0.86	0.70	0.68	0.98	0.55	0.35	0.59	0.30	0.32
Non-respiratory .. ..	.20	.17	.09	.07	.07	.06	.04	0.01	0.03	0.03

The following table sets out a comparison of the death rates of neighbouring authorities, for all forms of tuberculosis :—

England and Wales	....	....	....	0.20
<i>South Shields</i>	....	....	....	0.35
Gateshead C.B.	....	....	....	0.36
Newcastle upon Tyne	....	....	....	0.30
Tynemouth C.B.	....	....	....	0.22
Durham County	....	....	....	0.21
Northumberland County	....	....	....	0.16

Contacts examined at Chest Clinic

No. of contacts examined ....	....	....	....	487
No. tuberculin tested ....	....	....	....	248
Results—positive ....	....	....	....	138
,, —negative ....	....	....	....	110
			—	248
No. vaccinated with B.C.G. ....	....	....	....	76

B.C.G. Vaccination

The scheme for the vaccination of contacts of cases of tuberculosis by the Chest Physician commenced in the latter part of 1951, and that for the vaccination of “13 year olds” by the medical staff of the Public Health Department commenced in the early part of 1954, since when the following children have been vaccinated with Bacillus Calmette—Guerin vaccine :—

B.C.G. Vaccinations in South Shields

Year of Birth	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
1954	—	—	—	71	71
1953	—	—	43	16	59
1952	—	23	15	11	49
1951	3	13	7	7	30
1950	2	17	2	9	30
1949	1	11	6	4	22
1948	—	18	2	4	24
1947	1	11	1	1	14
1946	—	6	4	2	12
1945	1	1	1	3	6
1944	—	6	—	—	6
1943	1	2	—	—	3
1942	2	—	1	1	4
1941	—	—	3	*647	650
1940	—	2	—	1	3
1939	—	1	—	—	1
1938	1	1	1	—	3
Unknown	—	1	3	—	4
Total	12	113	89	777	991

*Vaccinated by Staff of Public Health Department, under Circular 22/53.

Mass Radiography

I am indebted to Dr. J. Reginald Beal, Medical Director of Mass Radiography Unit No. 2 for the following details :—

The unit operated in the South Shields clinic area for seven weeks during 1954.

7,773 miniature films were taken, the weekly average being 1,110 examinees.

The number of active cases of tuberculosis found was 6 males and 17 females, equivalent to a percentage of 0.16 and 0.41 respectively.

In addition 26 cases of dust disease were found and 1 case of suspected malignant disease of the lung.

Special Housing Scheme

160 houses have been allocated to overcrowded tuberculous families in the past, 25 of which were allocated this year. The present state of these families is as follows :—22 of the cases have died, 31 have been 5 or more years free (disease arrested). 3 left the town, 104 still remain as active cases. Many other families in which there is a case of tuberculosis have qualified under the Council's "points" scheme which allows extra 6 or 10 points in certain cases upon certificate of Chest Physician, and in all there are 582 families in which 648 patients are suffering from the disease living in houses on the Council's housing estates.

Resettlement

A scheme has been recently introduced whereby the Chest Physician accompanied by the Disablement Resettlement Officer of the local office of the Ministry of Labour, together interview patients at the Chest Clinic with a view to their resettlement. This scheme which is operating successfully in South Shields is to the patient's benefit and implements the suggestions made by the Ministry of Health.

No. of Sessions	....	....	....	....	....	5
					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
No. interviewed	....	....	....	....	10	12
Placed in employment or working				....	6	5
Sent to Felling Rehab. Unit for training...					3	1
Unemployed....	....	....	....	....	1	3
No record (left town)		....	....	....	—	7

Dietary Supplements

Thirteen patients were supplied with one pint of milk daily, amounting in all to 381 gallons.

Respiratory Tuberculosis 1921-1954

Table 'A' following gives the cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified and classified by sex and age group during the past 34 years.

From these figures it is evident that although the total number of cases in each sex is decreasing, the incidence amongst the younger females, particularly the age group 15-19 years, is increasing and similarly among the older males particularly 45 years and upwards. The incidence in the two specific age groups is more alarming still when we compare them with the notification rates based on the *projected* age group populations in the intercensal years.

Table 'B' and accompanying graph compare the female age group 15-19 with the total number of females and the male age group 55-64 with the total number of males.

Females 15-19:

It will be observed that the notification rate in this age group has actually increased by 100%. This is a very disturbing fact and although this age group has always had the highest incidence of any age group, that is no reason why the incidence should not conform with the general trend of reduction. Furthermore, it must be observed that this age group are all potential mothers, who will necessarily come within very close contact to their children. Apart from the rise during the years of depression, the increase appears most marked from the beginning of the second world war 1939 and has even increased since the war. This may be the result of "sieving" by Medical Officers of the services on examination of recruits, also improved case finding—both of which would only be of a transient nature and would adjust themselves later, but several further factors must be considered:

- (a) The number of girls at that age absorbed in industry after leaving school has definitely increased in this area since 1939, as previously the only girls employed were those in offices and shops, while during and since the war many industries have been opened in this locality for female labour. Thus, this age group, the bulk of whom are Tb. negative, leave school and go into industry where they are subject for the first time to "mass infection".

- (b) While at work they have more money to spend which often leads to less sensible clothing, dancing, cinemas, etc. with consequent later hours and less regular meals.
- (c) The improvement in milk supplies while reducing the incidence of non-respiratory tuberculosis has had the result of preventing school children from acquiring immunity by the small dose sub-clinical infection which they previously obtained from untreated milk. While this factor applies equally to boys of this age group, it is difficult to assess a true notification rate for them owing to so many being temporarily in the Services or at sea.

Remedies

B.C.G. vaccination for the 13 year old age group should therefore materially assist in the reduction of the incidence, but it will take about six years to have full effect. Mass Radiography at all factories and workshops should be carried out periodically.

Males 55-64:

While the incidence of all males 45 years and upwards is increasing, that for the age group 55-64 is more in evidence and may be due to:

- (a) The breakdown of old infected cases.
- (b) The aftermath of the excessive physical strain during the war owing to long hours of work under pressure.
- (c) Males are more subject to climatic exposure, with consequent attacks of bronchitis and pneumonia.
- (d) Males are more gregarious in their habits, especially in the evenings spent at clubs, the local, etc. and it is under these conditions that they may be infected by an unsuspected positive case.
- (e) The use of modern antibiotics, by prolonging the life of patients, has increased the number of tuberculosis patients in the community, as shown by the increasing numbers on the Tuberculosis Register, despite the reduction in total notifications.

Table A.—Notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis—1921/54

Period	Under 1		1/4		5/9		10/14		15/19		20/24		25/34		35/44		45/54		55/64		65+		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1921/25	3	5	42	32	80	83	84	62	73	71	91	88	181	129	127	81	70	32	23	9	4	0	778	592
1926/30	6	5	41	54	64	66	44	69	95	99	96	91	169	136	108	89	77	48	38	28	5	7	743	692
1931/35	4	4	24	23	40	43	44	50	76	67	80	78	125	116	115	77	74	36	35	20	4	4	621	518
1936/40	—	—	11	12	28	19	24	34	55	77	67	59	82	86	74	41	90	28	50	22	10	9	491	387
1941/45	2	1	17	9	45	36	28	17	46	60	81	83	113	71	124	47	102	19	57	20	7	4	622	367
1946/50	4	2	28	23	39	36	22	38	55	81	52	79	111	74	62	50	93	19	60	12	25	7	551	421
1951	1	2	6	4	6	7	4	10	7	18	9	18	25	25	11	6	17	6	20	2	4	2	110	100
1952	—	—	7	4	10	6	5	12	8	25	9	15	28	25	15	9	18	6	20	6	5	3	125	111
1953	1	—	2	6	9	11	7	6	14	18	9	15	21	23	19	15	28	6	16	4	7	3	133	107
1954	3	—	4	2	3	6	7	4	13	15	8	12	14	11	20	9	8	5	23	1	7	3	110	68
Total	24	19	182	169	324	313	269	302	442	531	502	538	869	696	675	424	577	205	342	124	78	42	4284	3363
Average Annual	0.7	0.6	5	5	9	9	8	9	13	16	15	16	26	20	20	12	17	6	10	4	2	1	126	99

TABLE B

Respiratory Tuberculosis: Notifications and rates per 1,000 of projected population

Year	All Females			Females 15/19			All Males			Males 55/64		
	Projected Population	Cases	Rates per 1,000	Projected Population	Cases	Rates per 1,000	Projected Population	Cases	Rates per 1,000	Projected Population	Cases	per 1,000 Rates
1921	59,055	118	2.0	6,036	14	2.3	57,580	165	2.9	3,490	3	0.9
1922	58,998	126	2.1	5,906	18	3.0	57,319	157	2.7	3,597	3	0.8
1923	58,941	107	1.8	5,776	9	1.6	57,058	140	2.5	3,704	7	1.9
1924	58,884	135	2.3	5,646	16	2.8	56,797	159	2.8	3,811	4	1.0
1925	58,827	106	1.8	5,516	14	2.5	56,536	157	2.8	3,918	6	1.5
1926	58,770	123	2.1	5,386	16	3.0	56,275	136	2.4	4,025	8	2.0
1927	58,713	139	2.4	5,256	18	3.4	56,014	144	2.6	4,132	8	1.9
1928	58,656	153	2.6	5,126	24	4.7	55,753	152	2.7	4,239	5	1.1
1929	58,599	136	2.3	4,996	22	4.4	55,492	167	3.0	4,346	8	1.8
1930	58,542	141	2.4	4,866	19	3.9	55,231	144	2.6	4,453	9	2.0
1931	58,486	107	1.8	4,733	20	4.2	54,969	136	2.5	4,565	8	1.8
1932	58,366	86	1.5	4,692	11	2.3	54,749	140	2.6	4,574	7	1.5
1933	58,246	109	1.9	4,651	7	1.5	54,529	146	2.7	4,583	6	1.3
1934	58,126	125	2.2	4,616	12	2.6	54,309	127	2.3	4,592	8	1.8
1935	58,006	91	1.6	4,569	17	3.6	54,089	72	1.3	4,601	6	1.3
1936	57,886	89	1.5	4,528	16	3.5	53,869	115	2.1	4,610	7	1.5
1937	57,766	69	1.2	4,487	8	1.8	53,649	79	1.5	4,619	12	2.6
1938	57,646	63	1.1	4,446	14	3.1	53,429	92	1.7	4,628	10	2.2
1939	57,526	77	1.3	4,405	14	3.2	53,209	78	1.5	4,637	7	1.5
1940	57,406	89	1.6	4,364	25	5.7	52,989	127	2.4	4,646	14	3.0
1941	57,286	80	1.5	4,323	9	2.1	52,769	124	2.4	4,655	12	2.6
1942	57,166	73	1.3	4,282	8	1.9	52,549	112	2.1	4,664	8	1.7
1943	57,046	69	1.2	4,241	9	2.1	52,329	128	2.5	4,673	9	1.9
1944	56,926	75	1.3	4,200	18	4.3	52,109	144	2.8	4,682	15	3.2
1945	56,806	70	1.2	4,159	16	3.8	51,889	114	2.2	4,691	13	2.8
1946	56,686	110	1.9	4,118	19	4.6	51,669	120	2.3	4,700	12	2.6
1947	56,566	70	1.2	4,077	16	3.9	51,449	104	2.0	4,709	13	2.8
1948	56,446	94	1.7	4,036	16	4.0	51,229	109	2.1	4,718	14	3.0
1949	56,326	71	1.3	3,995	15	3.8	51,009	127	2.5	4,727	12	2.5
1950	56,206	76	1.4	3,954	15	3.8	50,789	91	1.8	4,736	9	1.9
1951	56,043	100	1.8	3,899	18	4.6	50,555	110	2.2	4,749	20	4.2
1952	*56,307	111	2.0	3,858	25	6.4	*50,793	125	2.5	4,758	20	4.2
1953	*56,412	107	1.9	3,817	18	4.6	*50,888	133	2.6	4,767	16	3.4
1954	*56,517	68	1.2	3,776	15	3.8	*50,983	110	2.2	4,776	23	4.8

*Estimated population for years 1952, 1953 and 1954

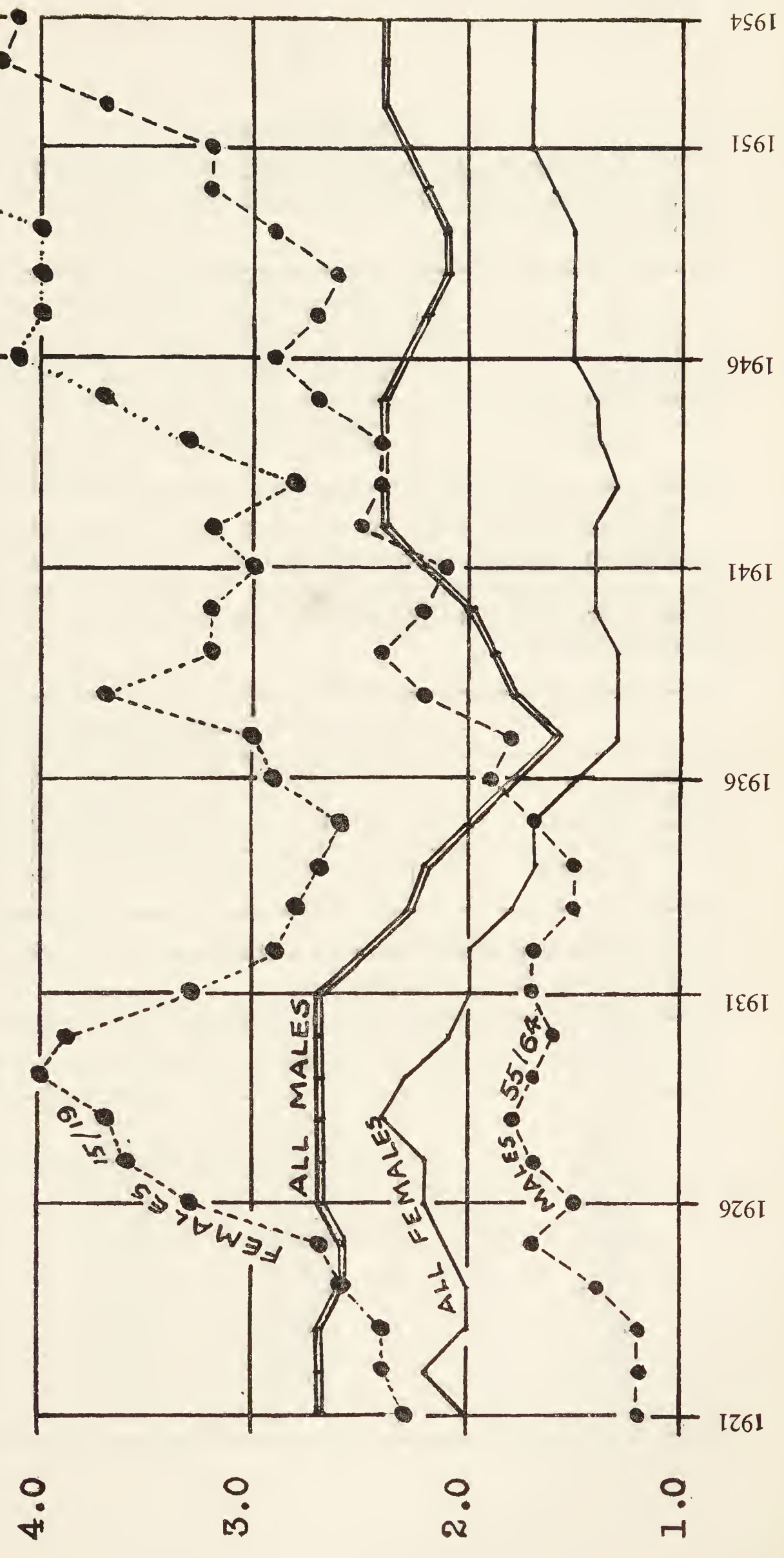
1921/25	294,705	592	2.01	28,880	71	2.46	285,290	778	2.73	18,520	23	1.24
1926/30	293,280	692	2.36	25,630	99	3.86	278,765	743	2.67	21,195	38	1.79
1931/35	291,230	518	1.78	23,255	67	2.88	272,645	621	2.28	22,915	35	1.53
1936/40	288,230	387	1.34	22,230	77	3.46	267,145	491	1.84	23,140	50	2.16
1941/45	285,230	367	1.29	21,205	60	2.83	261,645	622	2.38	23,365	57	2.44
1946/50	282,230	421	1.49	20,180	81	4.01	256,145	551	2.15	23,590	60	2.54
1951/54 *	225,279	386	1.71	15,350	76	4.95	203,219	478	2.34	19,050	79	4.15

* 4 years only

NOTIFICATION RATES OF RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS (SMOOTHED IN 5 YEAR PERIODS)

Age Groups 15/19 Females and 55/64 Males, compared with all Females & Males

Rates per
1,000



Venereal Diseases

The following table shows in detail the cases dealt with at the South Shields centre for the first time during each of the past ten years.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Syphilis	185	157	153	171	122	93	81	79	39	32
Gonorrhoea	269	298	259	233	166	160	102	153	137	94
Other conditions	406	542	505	486	544	490	366	413	338	352
Total	860	997	917	890	832	743	549	645	514	478

The cases dealt with for the first time include the following numbers of patients who were known to have had treatment for the same infection at other centres, in Service Hospitals or by general practitioners approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226 :—

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Syphilis	83	76	72	88	60	46	39	28	17	12
Gonorrhoea	31	71	33	38	23	29	14	18	6	8
Other conditions	1	10	8	17	36	14	6	10	5	1
Total	116	157	113	143	119	89	59	56	28	21

The following table shows the attendances at the South Shields centre during the 10 past years :—

Year	Total	Male	Female
1945	15,217	7,542	7,675
1946	14,155	6,804	7,351
1947	11,211	5,725	5,486
1948	10,463	5,487	4,976
1949	8,746	4,534	4,212
1950	8,078	4,192	3,886
1951	7,266	3,530	3,736
1952	9,072	4,084	4,988
1953	6,705	3,309	3,396
1954	5,769	2,763	3,006

Total cases treated at the South Shields centre during 1954 including cases who had continued treatment from 1953 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	102	75	177
Gonorrhoea	112	20	132
Other conditions	366	39	405

Disposal of Cases

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Conditions	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Ceased attendance:						
(a) Before completion of treatment	12	10	8	—	—	—
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests of cure	2	—	6	5	—	—
Transferred to other centres or to private practitioners	19	6	24	1	—	—
Discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure	17	5	56	7	324	37
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—
Under treatment on 31st December, 1954.. ..	52	54	18	7	42	2

Non-residents were treated at the centre from 21 countries other than England and Wales and from 12 administrative counties and 15 County Boroughs as well as a number of Displaced Persons and members of H.M. Forces.

South Shields Cases treated at other centres

	<i>Syphilis</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea</i>	<i>Other Conditions</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>
Grimsby	—	2	4	6
Sunderland	12	1	10	23
Total	12	3	14	29

Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

The Health Services Committee agreed to a two-fold expansion of the service in January, 1954 and the appointment of a Supervisor of Domestic Helps together with an amendment of the Scales of Charges in force.

Staff of Domestic Helps :—

1 Supervisor	6 full-time	42 part-time—At 31st December,	1954.
—	7 full-time	14 part-time—At 31st December,	1953.

During 1954, 400 cases were provided with Domestic Helps as compared with 217 in 1953.

The details are as follows :—

				Cases		Hours given	
				1953	1954	1953	1954
Maternity Cases	....	....	....	31	32	1,597	1,536
Tuberculosis	....	....	....	4	8	139	1,968
Aged	....	....	....	153	283	14,710	28,304
Illness	....	....	....	29	77	1,472	11,088
Total	....	....	....	217	400	17,918	42,896

Section 51.—Mental Health Service

The demand for mental hospital accommodation continues to grow, but with the excellent co-operation of the Hospital Authorities, the waiting periods for admission have been shortened and no difficulty has been experienced in placing urgent cases.

Co-operation with other statutory bodies has been excellent and special mention must be made of the Police and Ambulance Service for their assistance.

Pre-Care

In quite a number of cases, visits have been made and arrangements made for the patients to attend the Clinic, which have obviated the necessity of their being admitted to hospital.

After-Care

In appropriate cases, visits have been made and help and advice given which made it unnecessary for patients to return to hospital.

Mental Illness

Patients Admitted to Hospital by D.A.O's, 1954

TO CHERRY KNOWLES HOSPITAL, RYHOPE.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certified under Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890 (Certified patients)	7	21	28
Under Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 (Temporary patients)	1	4	5
Under Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930 (Voluntary patients)	29	22	51
Under Section 21(1) Lunacy Act, 1890....	—	1	1
Total	37	48	85

TO GENERAL HOSPITAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Under Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890 (D.A.O's 3 day Order)	59	48	107
Under Section 21(1) Lunacy Act, 1890 (Justices 14 day Order)	16	22	38
Total	75	70	145

TO ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, STANNINGTON.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890						
(Certified patients) ....	....	....	....	—	1	1
Under Section 1 Mental Treatment Act						
(Voluntary patients) ....	....	....	....	1	2	3
Total	....	....	....	1	3	4

TO ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, MIDDLESBROUGH

Under Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890						
(certified patients) ....	....	....	....	1	—	1

TO GENERAL HOSPITAL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Under Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890						
(D.A.O's 3 day Order) ....	....	....	....	2	—	2

The total number of cases admitted to hospital in 1954 through the D.A.O.s was 237 which compares with 250 in 1953.

Number of cases brought to the notice of the Duly Authorised Officers during 1954 :—

New cases	....	....	....	157
Old cases	....	....	....	65
Total	....	....	....	222

	Admitted			Discharged			Died			No. of Patients on 31/12/54		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
General Hospital, South Shields	75	70	145	70	67	137	4	..	4	3	6	9
Cherry Knowles, Ryhope	37	48	85	29	29	58	4	2	6	33	48	81
St. Mary's, Stannington	1	3	4	2	2	4	2	1	3	75	73	148
St. Luke's, Middlesbrough	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
St. George's, Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
General Hospital, Newcastle..	2	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	116	121	237	103	98	201	10	3	13	113	128	241

The following table classifies the patients resident at the end of the year :

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Cert.	Vol.		Cert.	Vol.	Total
General Hospital, South Shields	3	..	..	6	..	9
St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington	66	9	..	71	2	148
Cherry Knowles Hospital, Ryhope	18	15	..	29	19	81
St. George's Hospital, Morpeth	..	..	..	1	..	1
Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield	1	..	..	..	..	1
St. Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough	1	..	..	..	..	1
TOTALS	89	24		107	21	241

Total Male Patients .. 113
Total Female Patients .. 128

Mental Deficiency

There has been a slight increase in the past year in the numbers of children under school age and those ineducable who have been referred from the usual agencies. There is an indication that parents are beginning to have a more balanced outlook on Mental Deficiency and this is leading to greater and better co-operation between parents and officers.

All cases under Supervision have been regularly visited, those cases presenting special features and those considered to be "problem" cases being subject to frequent visitation.

Vacancies in Hospitals continue to be scarce and a fairly long waiting list exists.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938

	During 1954				Total cases on Authority's registers as at 1-1-1955			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 & over		Under age 16		Aged 16 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. <i>Particulars of cases reported during 1954 :—</i>								
(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by :—								
(i) Local Education Authorities on children								
(1) While at school or liable to attend school..	6	—	—	—				
(2) On leaving special schools	—	—	8	2				
(3) On leaving ordinary schools	—	—	—	—				
(ii) Police or by Courts	—	—	—	—				
(iii) Other sources.. .. .	—	—	2	3				
(b) Cases reported but not regarded at 31st December as defectives "subject to be dealt with" on any ground ..	—	—	—	—				
(c) Cases reported but not confirmed as defectives by 31st December and thus excluded from (a) or (b)	—	1	—	—				
Total number of cases reported during year	6	1	10	5				
2. <i>Disposal of cases :—</i>								
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	5	—	8	4	13	3	65	66
(ii) Placed under Guardianship*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iv) Admittance to Hospitals	1	—	2	1	18	8	92	54
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt" number								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3
(ii) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Item 2	6	—	10	5	31	11	162	124

	During 1954				Total cases on Authority's registers as at 1-1-1955			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 & over		Under age 16		Aged 16 & over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3. <i>Classification of defectives in the Community on 1.1.55:</i>								
(a) Cases included in item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care :								
(1) In urgent need of institutional care:								
(i) "cot and chair" cases					—	1	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases					—	—	—	2
(iii) medium grade cases					1	—	—	—
(iv) high grade cases ..					—	—	1	1
(2) Not in urgent need of institutional care:								
(i) "cot and chair" cases					2	—	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases					—	—	—	1
(iii) medium grade cases					—	—	1	2
(iv) high grade cases ..					—	—	1	1
Total of Item 3 (a)					3	1	3	7

*Please state here the number of defectives under Guardianship on 1st January, 1955, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9.

M.—Nil. F.—Nil.

	During 1954		Total cases on Authority's registers as at 1-1-55	
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
3. (b) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b) (i) overleaf, number considered suitable for:				
(i) occupation centre	14	2	26	30
(ii) industrial centre	—	—	—	—
(iii) home training	—	—	—	—
Total of item 3 (b)	14	2	26	30
(c) Of the cases included in item 3 (b) number receiving training on 1.1.55:				
(i) in occupational centre	—	—	—	—
(ii) in industrial centre	—	—	—	—
(iii) at home	—	—	—	—
Total of item 3 (c)	—	—	—	—

4. Number of Mental Defectives who were in Institutions, under Community Care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1954, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1954.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care	3	—	3
(b) Died, removed from area or lost sight of	3	7	10
Total	6	7	13

5. Of the total number of mental defectives under Supervision or Guardianship or no longer under care.

(a) Number who have given birth to children while unmarried during 1954—Nil.

	Males	Females
(b) Number who have married during 1954	3	1

Mental Defectives in Institutions on 31st December 1954

(including cases on licence therefrom).

<i>Institution</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital	....	72	55	127
General Hospital, South Shields	....	26	—	26
Aycliffe Hospital, Heighington	....	4	2	6
Rampton Hospital, Retford	....	3	2	5
Whittington Hall Hospital	....	—	1	1
Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster	....	2	2	4
Northgate and District Hospital	....	1	—	1
Moss Side Hospital, Maghull	....	1	—	1
Leamsden Hospital, Abbots' Langley	....	1	—	1
		110	62	172

PART IV.—MISCELLANEOUS

Blind Persons

I am indebted to the Director of Welfare Services for the information which he supplied for this part of the report.

During the year the total number of Forms B.D.8 submitted was 47 and the number of persons certified as blind was 35 and one partially sighted.

Age Groups	On Certification	At Onset of Blindness
up to 9 yrs.	—	1
10 to 19 „	—	3
20 to 29 „	—	—
30 to 39 „	3	3
40 to 49 „	1	2
50 to 59 „	6	6
60 to 69 „	7	3
70 to 79 „	7	9
80 and over	11	8
Total	35	35

The total number on the Blind Register at the end of the year was 406.

Partially Sighted

One person aged over 70 years and suffering from glaucoma and cataract was certified as partially sighted and in addition 1 school child for whom form B.D.8 has not been completed has attended the special class for partially sighted children at the Open Air School.

Treatment

Follow up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

	Causes of disability			
	Cata-ract	Glau-coma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during 1954 in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends—				
(a) No treatment	14	1	—	3
(b) Treatment (Medical, surgical or optical)	8	1	—	6
(c) Treatment inadvisable	2	—	—	—
(ii) Number of cases at 1 (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment	3	1	—	3

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

There were four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year occurring in domiciliary confinements. No impairment of vision occurred in any of these cases.

45 other cases of “discharging eyes” were notified by midwives. One of these cases was under treatment at the end of the year, there was no impairment of vision in the remainder of the cases. One case under treatment at the end of 1953 recovered with no impairment of vision.

Home Accidents

During the ten years up to the end of 1954, 84 persons lost their lives as a result of home accidents in South Shields. The mortality due to road accidents in the same period was 77. In the following table, the age group distribution of home accident deaths is shown.

Home Accident Deaths. South Shields. 1945-1954.

Year	0—1 years	2— 4	5— 14	15— 24	25— 34	35— 44	45— 54	55— 64	65— 74	75— 84	85+	Total
1945	2	1	2	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	12
1946	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	8
1947	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6
1948	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	7
1949	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	11
1950	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	—	11
1951	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	7
1952	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	2	9
1953	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	6
1954	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	7
Total ..	28	5	3	—	1	3	3	7	17	10	7	84

The persons most at risk are obviously children under 5 and elderly persons over the age of 65; both categories account for 80% of the total deaths. Of the 33 deaths of children under 5, 23 were infants who were stated to have died from suffocation due to various causes such as choking due to vomiting, smothering by pillows and overlaying. This represents a rather special problem involving other medical factors as well as mothercraft care and whilst there may be a degree of uncertainty as to the true underlying cause of death in some of these cases, the loss of infant life is considerable. It would be wrong to assert that it is due to carelessness and ignorance but the health visitors do everything in their power to ensure that parents realise the risks and give appropriate advice where necessary.

34 of the deaths were due to accidental falls and 30 of these victims were over the age of 65; 16 deaths followed burns and scalds and half of these were children under 14, the remaining 8 affecting persons of middle and old age in equal proportions.

The remainder were due to a variety of causes.

Hospital Treatment

During the twelve months of 1954 it was ascertained that in South Shields of 298 children under the age of 15 who had to be admitted to hospital as a result of accidents occurring in various localities (including the home, school, street and out of doors generally), 123 children (41 %) were injured in home accidents. 19 were victims of burns and scalds and there were also eight instances of young children swallowing poisonous substances left within their reach.

A brochure giving publicity on the prevention of home accidents was published and distributed during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

Under the above acts provision is made for “securing the necessary care and attention for persons suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

No cases were dealt with under these provisions.

Special Medical Examinations

246 special medical examinations were carried out by the medical staff of the department for South Shields Corporation employees :—

244 for Superannuation purposes, 8 of whom were rejected or deferred and
2 for the N.J.I.C. Sickness Pay Scheme.

Recuperative Holidays

Recuperative holidays in approved convalescent homes are arranged for invalids by the Local Authority for persons who are recommended by their own medical practitioners for this form of therapy, and who are unable otherwise to obtain such treatment. During the year 1954, 33 persons made application and were dealt with as follows :—

21 were admitted to Procter Memorial Home, Shotley Bridge.
(15 for two weeks, 3 for three weeks and 3 for four weeks.)

4 cases admitted to Rose Joicey Home, Whitburn.
(One for four weeks, 3 for ten days).

1 case admitted to St. Mary's Home, Whitley Bay, for two weeks.

7 cases withdrew their applications.

The cost of the service was £151 11s. 6d., and the sum of £31 6s 4d. was assessed as recoverable from patients.

The following is a summary of this service since its inception in 1951.

1951 16 cases made application; 12 accommodated: Cost of service £70. Amount recoverable £20 3s. 6d.

1952 1 case made application; 1 accommodated: Cost of service £10. Amount recoverable 16s. 8d.

1953 4 cases made application; 1 accommodated: Cost of service £5. Amount recoverable 10s. 8d.

Sick Room Requisites

557 articles were lent during the year, as follows :—

			<i>Public Health Department</i>	<i>Voluntary Association</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bed Pans ....	....	....	93	35	128
Air Cushions ....	....	....	103	23	126
Invalid Chairs ....	....	....	7	45	52
Rubber Sheets ....	....	....	81	18	99
Bed rests ....	....	....	62	5	67
Crutches ....	....	....	—	4 prs.	4
Urinals ....	....	....	44	7	51
Air Beds ....	....	....	9	—	9
Cradles (Orthopaedic) ....	....	....	8	—	8
Feeding Cups ....	....	....	—	1	1
Spinal carriage ....	....	....	—	—	—
Commodes ....	....	....	7	3	10
Bedsteads ....	....	....	2	—	2
Other articles ....	....	....	—	—	—
Total			.... 416	141	557

PART V—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH

Water supply

Water is supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. The supply is constant, adequate and according to bacteriological and chemical reports, satisfactory.

The town's population is 107,500 and there are 34,967 dwelling houses, each having a piped water supply to, or within, the premises.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no complaint has been made to the Health Department with reference to the supply.

Chlorination is carried out by the company and reports are supplied to, and as required by, the Medical Officer of Health.

Bacteriological examinations of the water supply were made from the various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from the various reservoirs and from consumers taps, the following results being obtained :—

B. COLI PERCENTAGES

	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Positive</i>
	<i>Samples</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>
		<i>100 ml.</i>	<i>100 ml.</i>	<i>10 ml.</i>	<i>1 ml.</i>
Wells	134	92.5	7.5	1.5	—
Other Sources	122	99.2	0.8	—	—
Reservoirs	109	96.3	3.7	—	—
Taps	75	100.0	—	—	—

The water supply system of this Company is so complex, being derived from eighteen different sources, that it is impossible to say how many of the foregoing results are applicable to South Shields, all the samples taken have therefore been included.

Typical Analysis (Chemical) of Water Supply in 1954

						<i>parts per</i>
						<i>million</i>
Total Solids	....	....	....	....	....	303
Chloride ....	....	....	....	....	....	38
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride	....	....	....	....	....	63
Total Hardness ....	....	....	....	....	....	231
Temporary Hardness	....	....	....	....	....	153
Permanent Hardness	....	....	....	....	....	78
Nitrogen as Free Ammonia	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
Nitrogen as Nitrate	....	....	....	....	....	1.7

						<i>parts per million</i>
Nitrogen as Nitrite	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Iron	....	....	....	....	....	nil
Colour (Hazen degrees)	....	....	....	....	....	5
Total Hardness (degrees)	....	....	....	....	16.2	
Temporary Hardness	....	....	....	....	10.7	
Permanent Hardness	....	....	....	....	5.5	

Drainage and Sewage Disposal

The town is drained on the combined system; all sewer outfalls being direct into the River Tyne or sea. No complaints have been made during the year with reference to sewer termini, but discharge remains particularly noticeable at the Corporation Quay.

Closet Accommodation

With the exception of a few isolated buildings, all closets are on the water carriage system.

Public Cleansing

Public Cleansing is the function of a separate department, but when complaint is lodged it is usually to the Health Department. During the year there has been no justifiable complaint.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping or incineration—the tips being regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Operator.

Camp Sites

The position is little changed from last year; there being 38 families in huts at the former Marsden Holiday Camp.

In the area added to the County Borough under the South Shields Extension Act 1950, are 25 huts at North Pastures Camp. Conditions are similar to those at Marsden.

Swimming Baths

The indoor swimming bath at Derby Street was regularly inspected. Water samples were taken and tested for chlorine content and pH factor. Forty bacteriological samples were satisfactory.

Eradication of Vermin (other than rodents)

Premises;

During the year 276 premises were treated for bugs (75), fleas (41), flies (2), beetles (112), woodworm (4), earwigs (2), wasps, etc. (4), moths (8), bees (7), furniture beetles (6), snails (4), lice (1).

Schools

Fifteen visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Offensive Trades

There are nine offensive trades on the register, viz :—

- 1 Gut scraper.
- 2 Tripe boilers.
- 6 Rag and bone dealers.

The gut scraper and tripe boilers occupy premises at the Abattoir. Total visits during the year were 130.

Lodging Houses

There are 15 licensed Seamen's Lodging Houses in the town and 249 visits were paid by the Inspectors.

Rodent Control

Complaints of rats or mice numbered 433. Of these 347 referred to domestic premises, 63 business properties and 23 to local authority's premises.

For eight weeks during the year, six men were engaged with sewer baiting.

The following table shows the total estimated kill for 1954 :—

<i>Treatment.</i>		<i>No. of baits laid.</i>	<i>Weight of bait.</i>	<i>Kill of rats and mice.</i>
Complaints ....	....	2,033	4½ cwts.	2,544
Sewers .....	....	5,143	9 cwts,	*
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ....	....	7,176	13½ cwts.	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year the Rodent Operator paid 3,179 visits to premises and the Sanitary Inspectors 410.

* Manholes showing takes on previous treatment and 5% of adjoining manholes were treated. Of these 260 (19.5%) showed evidence of infestation. The inspection of poison baits was not carried out so that an estimate of the "Kill" is not possible.

Cinemas

Eighty seven visits were paid to the twelve places of amusement.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Six visits were paid to premises where flock is used and conditions were found to be satisfactory. There are no rag flock manufacturers in the town.

Atmospheric Pollution

Twelve smoke observations were taken and advice given in each case.

The amount of pollution is calculated monthly and the following tables indicate the position :—

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION
A —ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR CONTENT

Month	Estimated Sulphur Index (mgms. sulphur trioxide per day collected by 100 square cms. lead peroxide)				Wind (Direction at 9 a.m.)							
	Town Hall	Harton Junior School	Stanhope Road School	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	Calm
January ..	2.11	2.03	2.25	6	1	1	6	5	6	5	1	—
February ..	2.60	—	2.20	1	2	3	3	3	7	7	1	1
March ..	2.05	1.71	1.79	2	—	5	6	4	7	3	4	—
April ..	1.78	1.22	1.12	5	6	4	2	6	2	3	2	—
May ..	1.13	0.94	1.04	11	4	4	7	1	1	2	1	—
June ..	1.31	0.84	0.79	5	5	3	1	4	6	3	3	—
July ..	1.41	1.00	1.05	3	4	1	4	1	9	7	2	—
August ..	1.13	0.70	0.84	7	4	1	3	5	7	3	1	—
September ..	2.31	1.20	1.30	—	—	—	2	8	2	6	2	—
October ..	2.34	1.37	2.55	1	—	1	2	4	15	5	3	—
November ..	3.03	2.41	2.25	2	1	—	4	7	11	5	—	—
December ..	2.68	2.20	1.91	—	—	—	3	4	15	7	2	—
Total 1954 ..	—	—	—	43	27	23	43	52	98	56	22	1
Average 1954 ..	1.99	1.42	1.59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average 1953 ..	1.52	1.61	1.71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 1953 ..	—	—	—	41	29	10	20	62	113	61	29	—

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

B—DEPOSIT GAUGE

Month	TOWN HALL			HARTON JUNIOR SCHOOL			STANHOPE ROAD SCHOOL					
	Rain-fall in ins.	Monthly Deposit in tons per square mile		Rain-fall in ins.	Monthly Deposit in tons per square mile		Rain-fall in ins.	Monthly Deposit in tons per square mile				
		Total soluble matter	Total insoluble matter		Total Solids	Total soluble matter		Total insoluble matter	Total Solids	Total soluble matter	Total insoluble matter	Total Solids
January	2.49	15.81	12.94	28.75	2.32	24.31	7.67	31.98	1.99	19.38	11.42	30.80
February	2.18	11.33	9.78	21.11	2.06	12.27	4.90	17.17	1.84	10.00	8.67	18.67
March	1.02	8.30	8.56	16.86	1.03	10.01	8.00	18.01	0.95	8.19	11.05	19.24
April	0.36	2.76	6.72	9.48	0.36	3.83	4.67	8.50	0.37	2.86	4.45	7.31
May	2.54	7.90	8.60	16.50	2.63	8.50	10.61	19.11	2.15	7.24	11.19	18.43
June	2.13	6.09	8.79	14.88	2.37	5.84	6.23	12.07	2.15	6.43	5.64	12.07
July	1.78	3.69	8.66	12.35	1.70	6.60	6.37	12.97	1.57	4.08	7.31	11.39
August	4.27	8.86	7.71	16.57	4.12	13.87	5.94	19.81	3.88	13.60	7.04	20.64
September	2.24	6.09	9.81	15.90	2.11	6.00	6.24	12.24	2.05	6.36	9.96	16.32
October	3.76	3.86	7.74	13.60	3.61	4.67	5.60	10.27	3.04	3.94	8.23	12.17
November	3.05	9.88	8.40	18.28	3.04	10.64	5.47	16.11	3.04	8.67	8.43	17.10
December	1.57	11.03	9.42	20.45	1.54	13.61	6.73	20.34	*	*	*	*
Average 1953 (monthly)	2.28	8.13	8.93	17.06	2.24	10.01	6.54	16.55	2.09	8.25	8.49	16.74
Average 1952 (monthly)	1.59	5.25	9.40	14.65	1.49	5.44	6.18	11.62	1.47	5.77	7.48	13.25

* Bottle broken.

Factories

During the year 102 visits were paid to factories under the 1937 Factories Act and Regulations. There were two outworkers employed during the year one as a Knitter and one as a Sewer of leather jerkins and the following tables indicate the local position in December, 1954 :—

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	198	10	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	474	85	5	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding outworkers' premises)	3	7	7	—	—	3
Total		679	102	7	—	

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)			By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	2	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient	9	2	—	—	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	7	3	—	5	—
(c) not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork)	12	1	1	—	1	—
Total		12	6	—	9	—

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 107 and 108).

VISITS OF INSPECTIONS

Visits by Sanitary Inspectors, 1954

The following is a summary of the visits of inspection etc., by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954 :—

General district inspection	....	....	....	....	6,579
Inspection of repairs to property	....	....	....	....	1,561
Interviews and appointments	....	....	....	....	1,564
Investigation of complaints of nuisances...	....	....	....	....	1,235
Testing drains	....	....	....	....	94
Smoke observations	....	....	....	....	13
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	9
Verminous persons	....	....	....	....	6
Seamen's Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	249
Homeworkers' premises	....	....	....	....	4
Factories: M.P.	....	....	....	....	91
Factories: N.M.P.	....	....	....	....	5
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	2
Fried fish shops	....	....	....	....	8
Ice cream shops	....	....	....	....	3
Food premises	....	....	....	....	408
Food inspections	....	....	....	....	498
Food sampling	....	....	....	....	624
Stables and allotments	....	....	....	....	48
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	101
Cinemas	....	....	....	....	87
Rat and vermin investigations	....	....	....	....	490
Schools	....	....	....	....	15
Refuse dumps	....	....	....	....	19
Squatters	....	....	....	....	2
Swimming bath	....	....	....	....	51
Local land charges	....	....	....	....	644
Public conveniences	....	....	....	....	137
Plans	....	....	....	....	40
Infectious diseases	....	....	....	....	999
Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	53
Contacts of smallpox, etc.	....	....	....	....	16
Court proceedings	....	....	....	....	2
Back streets	....	....	....	....	180
Housing inspection	....	....	....	....	108
Certificates of disrepair	....	....	....	....	9
Rag dealers	....	....	....	....	1
Boarding houses	....	....	....	....	13

Dance hall	2
Atmospheric pollution observations	68
Pet shops	22
Licensed Premises	29
Tents, Vans, Sheds	15
Furnished Rooms	7
	<hr/>
	16,110
	<hr/>

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1954

The following is a summary of the notices served by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954 :—

(A) ON OWNERS :—

Number of notices served	800
Number of houses not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	585
Nuisances caused by :	
Choked or defective drain	66
Defective W.C.	45
Defective scullery sink wastepipe	16
Accumulation of refuse	4
Rats	6
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1
House without sufficient water supply	24
House without adequate washing facilities	1
Defective outbuildings	40
Licensed premises:	
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Factory :	
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Amusement Park:	
Choked drain	1
Food premises not complying with byelaws	4
Insanitary stables	1

(B) ON OCCUPIERS :

For nuisance caused by :	
Dirty yard, etc.	7
Dirty premises	15
Keeping of animals, choked drain	2
Preliminary notices served	800
Preliminary notices complied with	549
Statutory notices served	233
Statutory notices complied with	221
Referred to the Town Clerk for further action	60
Legal proceedings	2

Structural Improvements effected, 1954

Nature of Work

Dwelling houses : closed	....	....	....	....	....	1
generally improved	....	....	....	....	....	690
Drains : abolished	....	....	....	....	....	3
provided	....	....	....	....	....	27
relaid	....	....	....	....	....	6
repaired	....	....	....	....	....	22
cleared	....	....	....	....	....	96
traps, gullies, etc., provided or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	44
Yards : relaid	....	....	....	....	....	14
repaired	....	....	....	....	....	36
W.C's : newly provided, complete	....	....	....	....	....	23
basins, cisterns, etc., renewed	....	....	....	....	....	146
Dustbins, provided	....	....	....	....	....	6
Urinals : repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1
Baths : provided	....	....	....	....	....	3
Washups : newly provided	....	....	....	....	....	21
traps, waste-pipes, etc., repaired	....	....	....	....	....	72
Lavatories : repaired	....	....	....	....	....	11
Wash-houses : rebuilt or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	81
floors repaired	....	....	....	....	....	4
Other outbuildings : provided	....	....	....	....	....	2
rebuilt or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	83
Water supply: reinstated	....	....	....	....	....	7
Stables and piggeries: repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1
Public houses : drains repaired	....	....	....	....	....	1
Rainwater cistern (underground) filled in	....	....	....	....	....	2
Food premises : washing facilities improved	....	....	....	....	....	2
ventilation improved	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total improvements	....	....	....	....	....	1,406

HOUSING

There were 34,967 inhabited houses in the County Borough at the end of 1954.

New Houses

676 new houses were completed during the year as follows :—

<i>Type.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
2 bedroomed semi-detached	} Simonside	56
2 bedroomed terrace		260
2 bedroomed bungalows		30
3 bedroomed semi-detached		56
3 bedroomed terrace		214
Single persons flats	} Olive & Lemon Streets	12
2 bedroomed terrace		44
Shops & Flats		4
Total ....	.....	676

Fair Rents Information Bureau

The following statement by the Borough Treasurer summarises the work of the bureau during 1954 :—

Complaints by tenants of overcharging	54
Enquiries by landlords	172
Enquiries concerning warrants of distress, notices to to quit, repairs, etc.	195
	421

Overcharged rents refunded—£56.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Number of enquiries from tenants and landlords 2,948

Housing Administration

The following table summarises the work of Inspectors during 1954 :—

Houses inspected	....	....	....	....	1,863
Number of Inspections	....	....	....	....	2,484
Number of totally unfit houses	....	....	....	....	743
Number of houses not reasonably fit	....	....	....	....	800
Rendered fit by informal action	....	....	....	....	549
Statutory Notices served	....	....	....	....	233
Rendered fit after Statutory Notice	....	....	....	....	121
Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	....	....	....	....	189
Persons rehoused from Clearance Area	....	....	....	....	549

Slum Clearance

During the year the following five areas were inspected for the purpose of representation as Clearance Areas :—

Albemarle Street.
 Somerset Street.
 Wilson Street (No. 1).
 Wilson Street (No. 2)
 Green Lane (No. 1)

Certificates of Disrepair

Application for certificates received	....	9
Applications granted	....	9
Application refused	....	—
Certificates revoked	....	—

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act came into force on the 1st April, 1952 and made it an offence to keep a pet shop without a licence granted by the local authority.

It is also an offence to sell animals as pets in any street or public place other than a market or to sell such animals to a person under the age of 12 years.

Specified conditions are to be complied with before any licence is granted.

Four licences were renewed during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The number of milk vendors on the register on 31st December, 1954 was as follows :—

	<i>Loose Milk</i>	<i>Bottled Milk</i>	<i>Total</i>
On register 31st December, 1953	14	410	424
Registered during 1954	—	24	24
Removed from register during 1954	—	—	—
On register 31st December, 1954	14	434	448

Five of these are wholesale dealers, three are producer-retailers, and two are producer-retailers from outside the town.

Milk (Special Designated)

The following licences were granted during the year :—

	<i>Estab. where produced & bottled</i>	<i>Estab. where produced only</i>	<i>Estab. where sold</i>	<i>Estab. where Pasteurised or Sterilised</i>	<i>Supple- mentary Licences</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculin Tested						
Milk	—	—	11	—	4	15
Pasteurised	—	—	50	1	3	54
Sterilised	—	—	448	—	2	450
Total	—	—	509	1	9	519

Ice-Cream

In accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following premises were registered at the end of 1954 :—

	<i>For Manufacture and Sales.</i>	<i>For Sale only.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
On register in 1953	24	193	217
Registered in 1954	—	21	21
Removed from register during 1954	6	—	6
On register 31.12.54	18	214	232

Meat Inspection at the Public Abattoir

There are no private slaughter-houses in the town ; all slaughtering of saleable animals for food must be carried out at the Public Abattoir.

The following table shows the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir during the past nine years :—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Beasts	5361	5183	5051	5375	6597	8090	7662	6543	8071
Calves	35	15	11	966	8	782	212	15	443
Sheep	25451	17454	16693	19832	20151	19494	27792	27946	33506
Pigs	96	56	123	225	1137	2746	12790	15859	24681
Goats	31	69	18	24	—	33	8	—	—
	30974	22777	21896	26422	27893	31145	48464	50363	66701

Food Inspected and Rejected as Unfit

The following table shows the amount of food rejected during the year :—

AT THE ABATTOIR :

Parts and organs rejected on account of Tuberculosis :—

	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Bulls	Calves	Pigs
Forequarters	22	9	3	—	—	—
Hindquarters	4	—	—	—	—	—
Feet	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ribs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heads	113	120	77	1	—	609
Lungs }	369	156	148	3	—	—
Hearts }						
Livers	42	36	11	1	—	—
Stomachs	14	9	15	—	—	—
Fats and Guts	34	19	21	—	—	352
Chitterlings	—	—	—	—	—	22
Kidneys	16	—	—	—	—	—
Udders	1	—	—	—	—	—
Spleens	23	5	9	—	—	—
Diaphragms	39	7	18	—	—	—
Plucks	—	—	—	—	—	214

On account of Tuberculosis :—

	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Bulls	Calves	Pigs	Total
Whole carcasses and offal	25	9	17	—	—	29	80
Animals with parts or organs rejected	492	205	197	3	—	957	1854
	517	214	214	3	—	986	1934

Weight of meat and offal (excluding lungs, tripes and guts) rejected on account of Tuberculosis :—

Beef: 35,700 lbs. Pork : 12,390 lbs.

Weight of beef and pork21 tons 5 lb.

Weight of lungs, tripes, and guts 8 tons 98 lbs.

Total weight rejected on account of Tuberculosis29 tons 103 lbs.

Comparative Table showing the Percentage of Animals found to be affected with Tuberculosis during the past seven years

Tuberculosis	Year	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs
Number of animals killed and inspected	1948	4740	311	11	123
	1949	5101	274	966	225
	1950	5584	1013	8	1137
	1951	7017	1073	782	2746
	1952	6455	1207	212	12790
	1953	5881	662	15	15859
	1954	6300	1771	443	24681
Whole carcasses rejected	1948	9	11	—	1
	1949	13	5	1	2
	1950	15	49	—	3
	1951	27	37	—	5
	1952	24	66	—	33
	1953	15	21	—	14
	1954	26	25	—	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	1948	362	52	1	6
	1949	256	48	—	8
	1950	324	344	—	22
	1951	307	253	—	160
	1952	306	384	—	569
	1953	312	152	—	724
	1954	405	419	—	785
Percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis	1948	7.8%	20.3%	9.1%	5.6%
	1949	5.3%	19.3%	0.1%	4.4%
	1950	6.1%	38.8%	—	2.2%
	1951	4.76%	27.03%	—	5.9%
	1952	5.11%	37.28%	—	4.71%
	1953	5.56%	26.13%	—	4.65%
	1954	7.84%	25.07%	—	3.17%

Carcases and Organs rejected for other diseases and conditions 1954

	Peritonitis	Indurated	Abscess	Mastitis	Actinomycosis	Pleurisy	Fever	Angioma	Gangrene	Johnes Disease	Melanosis	Septicaemia	Parasites	Cirrhosis	Inflammation	Septic Metritis	Jaundice	Infarcts	Oedema	Septic Pneumonia	Bruised	Decomposed	Contaminated	Total	Weight lbs.
BEASTS.																									
Carcases and offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	17
Head and tongue	..	..	7	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13900
Lungs ..	..	..	10	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Liver ..	2	..	437	..	..	..	67	..	..	..	..	..	5	1973	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Tripes ..	6	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	840
Fats and Guts ..	3	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2486
Kidneys ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2486
Spleen ..	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Hearts ..	1	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1200
Udders ..	..	16	3	275	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	600
Diaphragms ..	8	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
	..	16	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	294
	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2940
	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
SHEEP																									
Carcases and offal	2	..	28	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	22	1	3	..	..	64
Lungs ..	4	..	27	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	269	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3840
Hearts ..	4	..	27	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	269	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	396
Spleens ..	4	..	27	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	269	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
Liver ..	4	..	27	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	269	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Tripes ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	567
Forequarters ..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147

Carcases and Organs rejected for other diseases and conditions, 1954—(Continued).

	Infarcts	Haemorrhages	Erysipelas	Adhesions	Contaminated	Toxaemia	Pneumonia	Uraemia	Imperfect Bleeding	Abscess	Emaciation	Oedema	Cirrhosis	Parasites	Jaundice	Mastitis	Septic Pneumonia	Fevered	Pleurisy	Peritonitis	Blood Splashing	Decomposed	Pericarditis	Total	Weight—lbs.
Pigs																									
Carcases and offal	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	4	6	28	2	17	..	..	4	..	4	8	18	2	16	..	..	113	18280
Lungs	30	15	5	53	..	..	4	..	..	54	477	..	..	137	2	234	24	..	19	4	1058	2116
Heart	30	15	..	53	..	..	4	..	..	54	477	..	..	137	2	234	24	..	19	4	1053	1053
Liver	30	15	..	53	..	..	4	..	..	54	477	..	..	137	2	234	24	..	19	4	1053	3159
Head	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	48
Kidneys
Spleen
Tripes	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	10
Fats and Guts	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59	59
Chitterlings	23	..	3	..	6	32
Udder	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Plucks	2	60
Forequarters	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	300
Hindquarters	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	5	..
CALVES																									
Carcases and Offal	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	71

**Total weight of meat and offal (excluding lungs, tripes and guts)
rejected at the Abattoir for all diseases (excepting Tuberculosis)
and unwholesome conditions**

Beef	....	38,649 lbs. and	3,549 lbs. Beef (Bruised).
Mutton	....	4,822 lbs. and	68 lbs. Mutton (Bruised).
Pork	....	22,932 lbs. and	794 lbs. Pork (Bruised).
<hr/>			
Total	....	66,403 lbs.	4,411 lbs. 31 tons 12 cwts 30 lbs.

Lungs, tripes, guts	5,746 lbs.
Portions of liver	3,556 lbs.
<hr/>	
	9,302 lbs.—4 tons 3 cwts. 6 lbs.
<hr/>	

Miscellaneous parts (legs, flanks, shoulders, shanks, etc.) rejected
due to arthritis, fractures, abscesses, etc. :—

Beef	....	....	314 lbs.
Mutton	....	....	247 lbs.
Pork	....	....	711 lbs.
<hr/>			
1,272 lbs.—11 cwt. 40 lbs.			
<hr/>			

Total—36 tons 6 cwt. 35 lbs.

The details of food rejected in the previous paragraph are summarised in the following table

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND REJECTED IN 1954

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6300	1771	443	33506	24681
Number inspected	6300	1771	443	33506	24681
All diseases except Tuberculosis :— Whole carcasses rejected	13	4	1	64	113
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	2339	803	—	479	1103
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	35.93%	45.57%	0.22%	1.52%	1.32%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> :— Whole carcasses rejected	26	25	—	—	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	405	492	—	—	957
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.84%	29.1%	—	—	3.9%

Articles of Food rejected outside Abattoir, 1954

Pork	....	....	....	....	....	901	lbs.
Beef	....	....	....	....	....	7,834	,,
Mutton	....	....	....	....	....	344	,,
Lamb....	....	....	....	....	....	10	,,
Ham	....	....	....	....	....	147	,,
Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	1,047	,,
Sausage	....	....	....	....	....	36	,,
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	....	5,303	,,
Geese....	....	....	....	....	....	50	,,
Chickens	....	....	....	....	....	21	,,
Turkey	....	....	....	....	....	20	,,
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	269	,,
Margarine	....	....	....	....	....	702	,,
Butter	....	....	....	....	....	4	,,
Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	94	,,
Flour	....	....	....	....	....	57	,,
Raisins	....	....	....	....	....	19	,,
Biscuits	....	....	....	....	....	12	,,
Cakes	....	....	....	....	....	118	,,
Currants	....	....	....	....	....	50	,,
Macaroni	....	....	....	....	....	12	,,
Dried Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	6	,,
Sweets	....	....	....	....	....	30	,,

Weight—6 tons 14 cwt. 58 lbs. (approx). 15,066 lbs.

Tins, jars, packets, etc.

Milk	....	....	....	....	....	1,056
Beans....	....	....	....	....	....	1,022
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	231
Jam and Syrup	....	....	....	....	....	183
Meat products	....	....	....	....	....	1,301
Soups	....	....	....	....	....	279
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	2,189
Peas	....	....	....	....	....	1,036
Tomatoes	....	....	....	....	....	1,733
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	617
Total					....	9,647

Weight—4 tons 6 cwt. 15 lbs.

Total Weight—11 tons 73 lbs.

Disposal of Rejected Food

Abattoir meat and offal is collected by a reputable firm (under Public Health Department supervision) and processed into fertiliser.

All other food is incinerated by arrangement with the Cleansing Superintendent.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

CHEMICAL ANALYSES.

Designated Milk

Sterilised	....	....	....	....	24	
T.T. (Farm Bottled)	....	....	....	....	92	
T.T. (Pasteurised)	....	....	....	....	36	
Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	50	
					—	202
Milk	....	....	....	....		2

General.

Dry goods	....	....	....	....	42	
Drugs	....	....	....	....	16	
Ice-cream	....	....	....	....	10	
Orange drink	....	....	....	....	4	
					—	72

— 276

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Designated Milk.

T.T. (Farm Bottled)	....	....	....	....	83	
T.T. (Pasteurised)	....	....	....	....	35	
Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	48	
Sterilised	....	....	....	....	35	
					—	201

Milk Products

Ice cream	....	....	....	....	10	
					—	10

General.

Food poisoning	....	....	....	....	12	
Animal carcase organs	....	....	....	....	44	
Swimming baths	....	....	....	....	40	
					—	96

— 307

BIOLOGICAL

T.T. (Farm Bottled)	....	....	....	....	4	
					—	4

Total 587

Of the above samples, two informal milks were found to be not genuine. "Follow-up" formal samples were genuine, but one was below standard.

The informal samples taken include 3 samples of sausage found to be not genuine. These were followed by formal samples, two of which were not genuine. No further action was taking owing to relaxation of Ministry of Food standards.

The 20 samples of ice cream were of good quality and cleanliness. Premises were found to be well maintained and clean.

Fourteen specimens of food were sent for bacteriological examination in connection with suspected food poisoning, but all proved to be negative.

Forty four specimens from animal carcase organs from the Public Abattoir were also sent for pathological examination.

All ice-cream plant and premises comply with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations of 1947/52.

Food Hygiene

Since 1948, it has been our object to improve the standard of food hygiene and details have been printed in previous reports. Staff limitations, however, seriously curtail this important work which can only be done at intervals and at the expense of other important functions.

Exhibitions, lectures and talks have been arranged during the past six years for the food handlers.

Future policy will to some extent be guided by the provisions of the impending Food and Drugs Amendment Act and the relevant Regulations.

Inspections during 1954 are listed in the Sanitary Inspectors' Visits Table.

Forty three more premises have provided washing facilities complete with hot and cold water on tap.

Milk Regulations, 1949

It has again not been necessary to report for any action under Regulation 20 with reference to infected milk.

Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

No contravention of the Act or Orders was reported during the year.

At the Abattoir, lesions from three animals suggested the possibility of anthrax, but microscopical examination of the blood indicated that it was not necessary to notify the appropriate Ministry.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

Six samples were taken under the Act and Regulations and all were satisfactory.

INSPECTION UNDER THE SHOPS ACT

Number of Shops

Number of shops on the Register on 31st December, 1954, coming within the jurisdiction of the Shops Act, 1950, and the various Orders made thereunder by the Town Council was 1631.

63 of these shops are licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor to be consumed off the premises; 29 being concerned only with the sale of intoxicating liquor and 34 being operated in conjunction with other general trades.

There are 12 cinemas in which Young Persons (those under 18 years of age) are employed.

The number of premises on the register licensed for sale of intoxicating liquors to be consumed on and off the premises is :—

Fully licensed	....	....	....	91
Ales only	....	....	....	25
				<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	116
				<hr/>

The following premises are on the register in connection with employment of Young Persons under the Shop Act, 1950 :—

Billiard rooms 4; fun fairs 3; laundry, dyeing and cleaning works (including despatching and receiving goods premises) 23; boot and shoe repairing 50 (including despatching and receiving premises).

The number of visits paid to shop premises where the Shops Act, 1950 applies was as follows :—

Week days	....	....	....	....	1,664
Sundays	....	....	....	....	191
					<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	1,855
Interviews and appointments	....	....	....	....	29
Complaints received and investigated	....	....	....	....	18

Infringement of the Shops Act, 1950

Not exhibiting Assistants Weekly Half Holiday Notice	30
Not keeping Half Holiday Notices up-to-date	31
Not exhibiting notices stating seats are provided for female assistants	28
Not exhibiting notices stating purposes for which a shop is open on the Early Closing day for that shop	6
Not keeping in the prescribed form a record of the hours of work or employment of a Young Person or exhibiting a notice specifying the daily hours to be worked and intervals to be allowed for rest and meals	17
Record of the hours of work of a Young Person not being kept up-to-date	1
Not exhibiting an abstract of the provisions of the Shops Act, a notice setting forth the number of hours that may be worked by Young Persons and intervals for rest and meals which are allowed them and such other particulars prescribed	14
Not providing suitable and sufficient sanitary accom- modation	3
Not providing suitable and sufficient heating arrange- ments	7
Not providing suitable washing arrangements	6

Shops (Sunday Trading) Act, 1950—Sections 47-49

Not exhibiting on the Exterior and on the Interior of the shop notices stating the purposes for which and the hours during which the shop is open on Sunday for the serving of customers	12
Not keeping in the prescribed form a record of the names of and the hours worked by persons employed about the business of a shop which is open for the serving of customers on Sunday and of the respective days of the week these persons receive compensatory holidays for Sunday employment	5
Trading in articles the sale of which is prohibited on Sundays	5

Failing to close their premises for the serving of customers and serving customers after the general closing hours for their respective shops as provided for by the Shops Act, 1950, and the local Acts and Orders made thereunder	....	....	....	....	....	4
The infringements under the Shops Act, 1950, and the local Orders made thereunder with the exception of 4 cases were first offences and the persons in default were cautioned and instructed by the Inspector by written intimation	....	....	....			96
Verbally	....	....	....	....	....	40
The following were reported to the Health Committee and cautioned by the Town Clerk on the Committee's instruction :—						
Trading in prohibited articles on a Sunday	....					2
Trading after the General Closing Hours	....					1
Failing to display Assistant's Half Holiday Notices and a notice stating that seats are available for female assistants.	....	....	....	....	....	1
Circulars instructing shopkeepers in the requirements of the Shops Act were issued where required including an extract of the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.	....	....	....			79

The Acts and Orders which come under the supervision of the Shops Inspector :—

- (1) Shops Acts, 1950.
- (2) Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations, 1953.
- (3) The Hairdressers Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1913.
- (4) The South Shields Butchers Half Holiday Order, 1915.
- (5) The South Shields Pork Butchers Closing Order, 1921.
- (6) The South Shields Butchers Closing Order, 1920.
- (7) The South Shields Hairdressers Closing Order, 1922.
- (8) The South Shields Drapers etc. Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1925.
- (9) The South Shields Fish Dealers Weekly Half Holiday Order, 1925.

The Drapers etc. Orders apply to the trade or business of Drapers, Milliners, Clothiers, Mercers or Outfitters.

During the year the majority of the contraventions were of a minor type and it was found that an instruction to the offender was sufficient to have the matter rectified.

The majority of the complaints received were from rival shopkeepers who were not conversant with the Shops Act and had formed the opinion that their rivals were committing offences against the Acts to the complainants disadvantage.

A number of complaints were received relating to the pay of shop assistants, and conditions of service. These were referred to the Wages Inspector, Newcastle, who dealt with them satisfactorily.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

The Shops Inspector investigated a number of accidents resulting in children suffering severe burns. In one case the result was fatal and was due to an insecure guard placed round a coal fire. In all cases where an electric fire was the cause, no offence was disclosed under the above Act.

Certain recommendations were made to the Council with respect to fitting efficient guards on all electric fires in Council houses in order to safeguard young children, however it was decided that it was the parents' responsibility.

